INAAI MESTORY ASITS TOLD IN

JANUARY 2016 | VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 1



LEADERS BUILDING LEADERS

BIG GRANT AWARDED FOR LANGUAGE AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Leaders of the Ge-Niigaanizig program include (front) Alex Kmett, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, Adrienne Benjamin, (back) John P. Benjamin, Byron Ninham, Joe Regguinti and Laurie Harper. PAGE 2

FIGHT FOR **RESERVATION CONTINUES**

ELDERS REMEMBER **GOOD OLD DAYS**

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION IN DISTRICT II

HOLIDAY **PARTY** HIGHLIGHTS

Treaty Timeline

The **Treaty of 1825** divided the Minnesota Territory between the Dakota/Sioux in the south and the Chippewa/Ojibwe/Anishinaabe in the north.

In the **Treaty of 1837**, the Ojibwe ceded to the U.S. land in what is now east central Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin, as non-Natives continued to encroach on Ojibwe lands. The treaty included this important sentence in Article 5: "The privilege of hunting, fishing, and gathering wild rice, upon the lands, the rivers and the lakes included in the territory ceded, is guarantied to the Indians, during the pleasure of the President of the United States." The Supreme Court reaffirmed those rights in 1999.

The **Treaty of 1855** created reservations in north central Minnesota at Mille Lacs, Leech Lake, Cass Lake, Winnibigoshish, Gull Lake, Pokegama Lake, Rabbit Lake, Rice Lake and Sandy Lake. The Mille Lacs Reservation included 61,000 acres on the south side of Mille Lacs Lake.

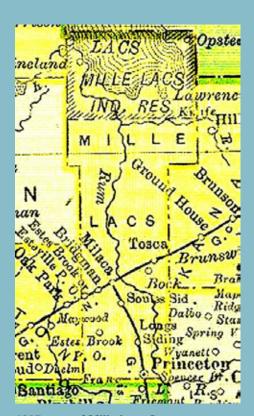
In 1858, Minnesota officially became a state.

In 1862, during the U.S.-Dakota War, Mille Lacs Chief Shawbashkung convinced a large force of Ojibwe not to join the attacks on non-Indian villages in the area.

In the **Treaty of 1863-4**, The Cass, Leech and Winnibigoshish reservations were consolidated into the Leech Lake Reservation. Because of the Mille Lacs Band's actions during Dakota War, the U.S. promised they would never be forced to leave their reservation.

The **Nelson Act of 1889** provided for the allotment of tribal lands to individual Indians and the sale of surplus lands to non-Indians. In accordance with the Act, Mille Lacs Band members were told they could receive allotments at Mille Lacs, but most were never received, and their lands were sold to European Americans in violation of the Act. Settlers took fields that had been cultivated by Band members, and the County Sheriff evicted Band members from their homes and burned their possessions.

In **1902**, Chief Migizi and Chief Wadena refused to leave reservation land, earning the Mille Lacs Band the moniker "non-removable Mille Lacs Band."



1895 map of Mille Lacs County. Source: lakesnwoods.com

NON-REMOVABLE:

Band Still Fighting for Reservation

"Our sovereignty is our

sword and our shield.

future generations

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so hard to defend our

— Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

My job is to make sure

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

Year in, year out, the boundaries of the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation come up in news stories and conversations among Band members and non-Indians alike.

Protecting sovereignty and defending the Reservation is at the top of the agenda of Mille Lacs Band leaders. "Our sovereignty is our sword and our shield," said Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "My job is to make sure future generations won't have to work so hard to defend our sovereignty as past generations have."

Those efforts have kept Melanie busy in recent months, as she has traveled to Washington and St. Paul to follow a variety of issues.

Although the legal details can be complicated, the basic conflict over the boundaries is simple: The Mille Lacs Band and the United States government believe the 61,000-acre 1855 reservation still exists, while Mille Lacs County and the State of Minnesota say it was disestablished by treaties and laws that came later in the 1800s.

The original reservation included the townships of Kathio, South Harbor and Isle Harbor, but according to the County, tribal jurisdiction only applies on a

few thousand acres of trust land (see sidebar, "What is Trust Land?").

The Band has always said that exercising its sovereignty within those boundaries will not hurt non-Indian neighbors, and may even help them, yet State and County government officials have used the issue to spread unwarranted fear that living on a recognized reservation will damage their quality of life.

In 2001, Mille Lacs County attempted to bring the issue into federal court, but the case was dismissed because the County couldn't prove that anyone was being harmed over the dispute.

The "boundary case," as it became known locally, had its roots in local anger over the 1837 Treaty case, and its repercussions are still felt as the County continues to deny the existence of the reservation.

From treaty rights to boundaries

In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Band in Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians — commonly known as "the 1837 Treaty case."

Even today, some of the Band's neighbors don't understand or acknowledge that Band members' rights were systematically denied by the State of Minnesota for decades, or that the exercise of those rights is a central part of Anishinaabe culture and identity.

Individuals and groups have tried to push the issue of tribal netting back into court. Some continue to blame gillnetting — a centuries-old cultural tradition at Mille Lacs — for declines in the walleye population, even though DNR studies and independent research have shown that netting is not to blame.

Another outgrowth of that bitterness was the County's denial of the existence of the Mille Lacs Reservation. After the 1837 Treaty case was lost in federal court, residents of the north end of Mille Lacs County chose Frank Courteau, a well-known opponent of Indian treaty rights and tribal sovereignty, to represent them on the County Board.

Courteau immediately began raising the boundary issue, which led to negotiations with the Band over jurisdiction. Tribal

negotiators agreed that the Band would not attempt to tax or zone non-Indians within the Reservation boundaries, but that was not enough for the County commissioners. They wanted the Band to admit that the Reservation had been disestablished

The County was not persuaded by the fact that the federal government had recognized the reservation in federal statutes and administrative decisions, on maps, and in government communications, including a 1991 legal opinion by the United

States Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office in Minneapolis.

The County was also not persuaded by State laws that recognize the reservation, including Minnesota Statute 626.90, which is the basis of the County's law enforcement agreement with the Band.

In November of 2001, after reaching an agreement on taxation and land use regulation within the Reservation, the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to sue the Band over the existence of the Mille Lacs Reservation.

In January of 2002 a petition signed by 2,200 Minnesota residents was presented to the Board by Dave Oslin of Isle. (Oslin replaced Courteau on the Board after

Courteau gave up the seat in 2012.) The petition urged Attorney General Mike Hatch "to take whatever legal action is necessary to support Mille Lacs County in (its) efforts to resolve, once and for all," the reservation dispute.

In February of 2002 the Board filed suit seeking a "declaratory judgment" that the Reservation, as established in the Treaty of 1855, had been disestablished.

The County attempted to get the State of Minnesota involved in the lawsuit, since the State had also claimed that the reservation was disestablished, and that the term "reservation" only applies to several thousand acres of trust land in the Band's three districts — in spite of the fact that Minnesota Statute 626.90, recognizes the 1855 Reservation.

Bringing the state into the lawsuit would have given the county credibility, but the State remained on the sidelines until after the County lost in Federal District Court.

In May of 2002, the lawsuit was thrown out by Judge James Rosenbaum, who said the County failed to show that anyone suffered harm from the ongoing dispute. Despite the January 2002 petition and lobbying by the County, the State had stayed out of the case.

The County appealed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. The State filed a short brief arguing the boundary issue should be decided (without addressing who was right about the boundary), but the Court of Appeals upheld Judge Rosenbaum's decision.

The County then tried to take the case to the United States Supreme Court, and again was supported by the State.

However, in October of 2004, the Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal.

Trust land and TLOA

Even though the boundary case went nowhere, Mille Lacs County has continued to take every opportunity to claim that the 1855 Reservation doesn't exist. The commissioners have been supported by Republican state representatives and senators.

County and State elected officials have opposed the Band

at every turn, often using "the boundary issue" to spread ignorance and hostility toward the Band — the county's largest employer.

Their actions delayed the construction of the wastewater treatment plant and several trust land applications. The boundary issue also nearly ended the law enforcement agreement between the Band and Mille Lacs County.

More recently, the county used the boundary issue to oppose the Band's 2013 Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) application. That application — an attempt by the Band to get federal law enforcement help to deal with drugs and gangs — has been in limbo for over two years.

Federal recognition questioned

In recent arguments against the Band's fee-to-trust applications, Mille Lacs County has upped the ante: Not only do they claim that the reservation doesn't exist; they now argue that the Mille Lacs Band is not federally recognized.

The Band, of course, is recognized as one of six members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The U.S. Government has acknowledged the Band's sovereignty since the early 1800s when Band leaders signed a series of treaties with the United States.

As long as the County and State continue to make these arguments, the Band will continue to assert its sovereignty and protect its homeland, just as its leaders have done since their ancestors came to this land.

Why does it matter?

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin believes that the issue of the 1855 Reservation is important to the Band and individual Band members for several reasons:

- 1. The United States promised the Mille Lacs Band in 1855 a 61,000-acre reservation. No subsequent Act of Congress ever broke the promise the U.S. made in 1855. Both parties to the Treaty of 1855 say the boundary is still intact.
- 2. Our ancestors fought for decades to stay on the Reservation. They were literally burned out of their homes in an illegal attempt to force them off the Reservation. They stood their ground, refused to remove, and ultimately prevailed. We owe it to them to defend the existence of the Reservation today.
- 3. If the County succeeds in disestablishing our Reservation, it will be more difficult for the Band to protect our people, our economic assets and our natural resources for the Seventh Generation. Our application for the Federal Government to provide law enforcement assistance under the Tribal Law and Order Act is a good example of this. If the County disestablishes the Reservation, Federal assistance would be limited to trust lands. It will be more difficult to target gang members committing violent acts and selling drugs on neighboring parcels of fee lands.
- 4. The Reservation is where we can govern ourselves. As Band members have returned to the Reservation seeking to reconnect with their culture, find jobs and raise their families, we know that we do not have enough trust lands to accommodate them. The Reservation provides a place for them, where they can be a part of our community and follow our laws. The County's ceaseless efforts to disestablish the Reservation would interfere with our sovereign authority to make our own laws and live by them.

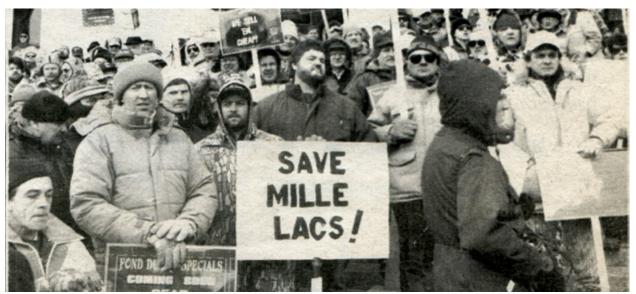








Among the leaders who fought for the Band's rights and reservation were (left to right) Shawboshkung, Migizi, Wadena, and Marge Anderson.



The Band has faced protests, boycotts, petitions, lawsuits and media campaigns that threaten its rights and reservation, including this rally against treaty rights in 1993 at the capitol in St. Paul.

What is Trust Land?

Trust lands are those held "in trust" by the U.S. government on behalf of Indian tribes. On trust lands, tribes and their members pay no state or local taxes, and tribal sovereignty applies in full.

The tribe may also own "fee land," which is subject to state taxes and other laws.

Indian-owned land within a reservation is treated differently in the law than Indian-owned land outside a reservation, which is one reason why the boundaries of the reservation matter. For example, it is easier to convert fee land to trust land within reservation boundaries.

Tribes' sovereignty over non-Indians owning fee land inside a reservation is very limited.

Defending Sovereignty

December 1980: The Mille Lacs Band passes a conservation code claiming jurisdiction over Indians within the boundaries of the 1855 Reservation.

January 1981: The Mille Lacs Lake Advisory Association comes out against gill netting, which would be allowed under the Band's conservation code.

August 1990: The Mille Lacs Band sues the State of Minnesota over rights guaranteed by the Treaty of 1837. Mille Lacs County joins Minnesota in the lawsuit.

August 1991: The Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs County sign a mutual aid law enforcement agreement.

March 1993: Mille Lacs County Board votes 4-1 against a negotiated settlement of the 1837 Treaty case. Mille Lacs Band members vote to approve the settlement. The Minnesota Senate tables it, effectively killing the settlement.

April 1999: After a long court battle and several appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of the Mille Lacs Band.

March-November 2001: Band officials and the Mille Lacs County Board attempt to negotiate an agreement on the reservation boundaries and tribal/county jurisdiction.

July 2001: Mille Lacs County appeals the EPA decision to grant the Band a permit for the proposed Mille Lacs Wastewater Treatment Facility.

November 2001: Mille Lacs County votes to take the reservation issue to court, ending negotiations with the Band.

February 2002: Mille Lacs County files a lawsuit in federal court seeking a declarative judgment that the 1855 Reservation no longer exists.

January 2003: Federal judge hears boundary case. Mille Lacs County protests the Band's wastewater treatment plant permit.

May 2003: County's reservation lawsuit is dismissed.

November 2004: Supreme Court declines to hear the county's appeal.

November 2007: Band pulls out of mutual aid agreement, in part due to the county's refusal to acknowledge the reservation boundaries. The Band and County eventually sign a new mutual aid agreement.

May 2013: Mille Lacs County opposes the Band's request for federal law enforcement assistance under the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act.

October 2015: Mille Lacs County opposes trust land applications, repeating the opinion that the 1855 Reservation was disestablished, and also questioning the federal recognition of the Band.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

The February issue deadline is January 15.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE BENJAMIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin! I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season. Under the Band Statutes, which are our laws, the Chief Executive is required to present an annual State of the Band Address on the second Tuesday of January of each calendar year. This year, the State of the Band Address falls on January 12, 2016. I encourage all Band Members to mark your calendars and try to attend this important event.

We are doing things a bit differently this year, but in a way which is not new. The first State of the Band Address I ever attended was in January, 1990, after I was hired as Commissioner of Administration by the late Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow. Back in those days, we held the State of the Band in the gymnasium of the old school, which was located across the street from the government center on the same land where the Grand Casino Mille Lacs parking lot is now located. About 200 Band Members and employees would attend this event, and the meal was always a pot-luck, with Band Members bringing a dish to share.

In general, only Band Members, their family members and our government employees attended. Sometimes in Chief Executive Gahbow's day, a few guests from outside the Band would be invited, but this was rare. In this setting, Chief Exec-

There are times when families sit down together and have a frank talk about the realities going on around them — a time when problems must be clearly stated — and family issues must be dealt with by the family.

utive Gahbow would speak very frankly with the Band Members about critical challenges we were facing, which were often sensitive matters that he needed Band Members to be informed about.

In 1991, something amazing happened. As a Band, we were transformed almost overnight from being one of the most impoverished communities in Minnesota to being the owners of a new casino, with a national and state spotlight shining on our community. Suddenly, everyone was interested in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Many new friends, potential partners, the media and neighbors wanted to know what our plans were. We began to receive inquiries from other neighboring local, state and federal officials, businesses, corporate partners and the media about whether they might also attend our State of the Band Address. These were exciting times, and of course we welcomed all.

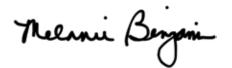
Over the past two decades, there have occasionally been sensitive issues which the Chief Executive has wanted or needed to be able to have a very frank conversation with Band Members about, in the same way that Art Gahbow did, back in the day. These days, with so many guests in the room, this has been a challenge, especially when a few of those guests do not have the best interests of the Band in mind and are only attending to gain information they can use to harm our interests.

As Chief Executive, this year is one of those years when we have critical and sensitive issues that we need to be able to speak very openly about. For that reason, attendance at the State of the Band Address this year will be by invitation only. All Band Members and their family members (whether they are Band Members or not) are welcome and encouraged to attend. We also have some non-Band Member employees who have become part of our family, who work hard every day on protecting our interests and should also be part of this conversation. They will be invited by their commissioners or other Band elected or appointed officials.

Sometimes in Chief Executive Gahbow's day, a few guests from outside the Band would be invited, but this was rare. In this setting, Chief Executive Gahbow would speak very frankly with the Band Members about critical challenges we were facing, which were often sensitive matters that he needed Band Members to be informed about.

We will let the world know that, at least for this year, the Mille Lacs Band State of the Band Address is intended only for Band Members. There will be no messages directed toward other governments or media. I hope all Band members and their family members will consider attending.

We are facing many issues critical to our lives, our future as an Indian tribe and the lives of future generations. There are times when families sit down together and have a frank talk about the realities going on around them — a time when problems must be clearly stated — and family issues must be dealt with by the family. We are a family, and this is one of those times. See you on January 12. Miigwech!



Youth Language and Leadership Program Wins Grant

The Ge-Niigaanizijig youth language immersion and leadership program has been awarded a two-year, \$253,848 grant from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

The program, which is in the developmental stage, was featured in the December *Inaajimowin*. It is the brainchild of Band member Adrienne Benjamin who, with the help of a dedicated group of colleagues, developed her vision as part of Cohort 5 of the Native Nations Rebuilders program sponsored by the Bush Foundation.

"When I opened the email from MIAC, I couldn't believe my eyes, and I instantly had tears," said Adrienne. "I know how hard we all have worked on this idea over the past two years, and to know someone else believed in our work enough to fund it made me feel so grateful. It's pretty amazing that, thanks to this grant, we can now get on with the business of sharing the language and creating future leaders through this plan."

Participants in the group will be required to submit an appli-

cation this spring, and the program will begin officially in July. It will feature monthly meetings with motivational speakers, Ojibwe language teachers, Elders and community role models, with the goal of developing young leaders through the Ojibwe language and steering them toward higher education.

Students will be required to meet with members and elders of their home communities and report back on what they learn.

Others involved in the group are John P. Benjamin, Byron Ninham, Laurie Harper, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, Joe Regguinti, Pamela Johns and Alex Kmett.

"We have a great team of inspired people who are so committed to this vision that they've been showing up to help for months to further this plan and hold preliminary sessions with the youth on weekends without compensation," Adrienne said. "That doesn't happen very often. I know it will be successful because of that level of commitment, belief and care about this project."

An announcement about the application process will be released this spring. Watch *Inaajimowin*, Facebook and **millelacsband.com** for details.

"I know how hard we all have worked on this idea over the past two years, and to know someone else believed in our work enough to fund it made me feel so grateful."

— Adrienne Benjamin



District II Members Share Opinions at Final Round Table

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Common themes and new ideas emerged as Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin hosted her third community round table discussion on the topic of drug abuse on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Minisinaakwaang Ceremonial Building.

The meeting began with an invocation by Vince Merrill, who then spoke in depth in Ojibwe and English on the im-

"We need to let go of old hurts and wounds. We're here to help each other and preserve what was given to us as a people: our life, our values and our drums."

- District II Elder Brenda Moose

portance of spirituality, language and culture in addressing drug abuse.

Elder Brenda Moose responded to Vince in Ojibwe and also spoke in English about the need for compassion and Anishinaabe values. "We have to care about one another," she said. "We need to let go of old hurts and wounds. We're here to help each other and preserve what was given to us as a people: our life, our values and our drums."

Others echoed themes that arose at District I and III round tables, ranging from punitive measures like banishment and withholding of per capita payments on one hand, to improved treatment programs and family preservation efforts on the other

Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose talked about his department's community response plan and his goals of improving treatment options for families, especially those based in Anishinaabe culture and spirituality.

Melanie said the answers to the Band's problems lie in

each community, and while government can help, it can only do so much. "When we as community members take the responsibility for what's going on in our communities, good things happen," she said. She also said she wants to find ways to support those who are making good decisions.

Mary Sue Anderson agreed that those who are not doing bad things need to be recognized. She encouraged community members and government officials to stop enabling drug users, including some who work for the government.

Michaa Aubid said the District II communities, especially Sandy Lake and Minnewawa, don't have equal access to Band resources. When members get sick, they often need to go to Aitkin, since the clinic hours in East Lake are so limited.

An online survey has been made available to Band members who were not able to attend the round tables. To view the comments from the round tables and to complete the survey and add your ideas, go to millelacsband.com/newsroom/survey-deal-problem-opiates-drugs/.



New hand-crafted Aazhoomog Community sign created by local band members

The District III DNR staff harvested the wood to create this beautiful new landmark for the Aazhoomog Community. Land Maintenance **Supervisor Richard Martin engraved** the wording on the sign that enters the Aazhoomog community of the reservation along Grace Lake Road. **District III Representative Harry Davis** shared, "This sign is something our community has needed for a long time. It identifies where our Aazhoomog reservation land begins, and I hope it will bring some pride to our people again." Chi Miigwech to Edward St. John, Wallace St. John, Elijah Staples and Richard Martin for making this beautiful new sign.

Band Negotiating with State to Lease and Operate Four Winds

The Mille Lacs Band is in negotiations with the state of Minnesota to take over operation of the Aurora Four Winds Lodge Treatment Program at the Brainerd Regional Human Services Center.

Due to changes in federal law, the state is being forced to close some of its behavioral health centers or find other organizations to take them over. Given the shortage of inpatient and outpatient treatment facilities in the state, closing Four Winds would be a tragedy, according to Health and Human Services (HHS) Commissioner Sam Moose.

"Their goal and ours is to continue to operate the program as a culturally focused drug and alcohol treatment program for Minnesota American Indians," said Sam.

In the past, finding treatment options for Band members has been difficult, and the time it takes can be detrimental to the recovery process.

Sam said the location is a plus. "There's a benefit to being close to home for treatment — but not too close," he said.

When the extent of the opiate crisis became known during the fall of 2014, Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose was asked to come up with a plan to address it.

Among the six initiatives presented to the tribal government and the community were "development of a recovery-oriented care system," "strengthening of outpatient services," "exploration of new residential treatment options," "expan-

sion of women's and children's programs," and "enhancement of existing programs and collaborations."

Taking over Four Winds can help HHS achieve several of those goals in a relatively short period of time, according to HHS Executive Director Jeff Larson. "We will fairly soon be able to operate a residential chemical dependency program that can house any Band member who wants to go there," said Jeff.

The state approached the Band about a year ago to see if there was any interest in buying or leasing the facility, which is under the Direct Care and Treatment division of the Department of Human Services. It is one of six Community Addiction Recovery Enterprises in the state.

Four Winds originated as a program geared specifically toward helping American Indians recover from drug and alcohol addiction, but in recent years has been staffed by non-Indians. According to Jeff, the facility needs some upgrades to allow for more culturally specific programming, and the Band is hoping the state will make some of those changes during the transition period.

"Several improvements are needed in the building to make it more of a healing environment," he said. "It has a state hospital feel to it, and we think the community deserves better than that "

Other complications include ownership of the property and

licensing of the program. For now, the Band will lease the facility because putting it up for sale would require a competitive bid process that may result in the closure of the program. The Band will initially license the facility through the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The final arrangement will require approval by the State Legislature and the Band Assembly, which HHS hopes will happen this spring.

Once the agreement is in place, the HHS Behavior Health Department hopes to start the transition from a State-run to a Band-run program.

"This is a great opportunity for the Band," said Sam. "It's close to District I, and fairly close to District II, which will make the transitions into and out of treatment much easier and the recovery process more successful."

Sam said the Band has been in touch with other Bands and with the State American Indian Advisory Council on Chemical Health. They are supportive and want to see it happen as soon as possible.

"Our goal will be to bring Band members and other Native American staff in to run the program and return it to its original mission, which was to provide strong culturally focused recovery from addiction."

The Good Old Days, When Times Were Hard

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

The Elders Room at Wewinabi Early Ed in District I is a storehouse of information on the history, culture and language of the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe. That information is not stored in books, however, but in the memories of elders Susan Shingobe, Maggie Kegg, Elfreda Sam and Carol Nickaboine.

Susan is 84 and Maggie 87, but both are spry and sharp. Their conversation is punctuated by laughter, knowing smiles, and inside jokes in Ojibwe.

"I've always lived here, all my life," says Susan. "Up toward the point there were nine or 10 one- or two-room houses."

Susan and Maggie lived in a two-room house with their sister Annie and their parents, Sam and Jenny Mitchell. Their half-sister Mildred lived away from home by then, and their brother Harry stayed with his grandparents. Their twin brothers, Amos and Andy, came along later.

Jenny never learned English, but Sam picked it up as he worked to make ends meet. Maggie and Susan attended a one-room and then a three-room schoolhouse. They didn't learn English until they started school.

Jenny and the girls washed clothes with a washboard and washtub they carried to the lake. There was no electricity or running water.

"We had to walk a block and a half to the pump," Susan recalls. "In the winter we'd fill milk cans with water and drag them home on a sled."

Their father trapped and logged for money. Susan remembers helping him in the woods. "There was an old man who had two horses, and my dad would go cut wood with him. Come to think of it, that was Art Gahbow's grandpa, Dick Gahbow."

Jenny and the other ladies made birch bark baskets, bird houses and small canoes to sell on the side of the road, or at Harry Ayers' trading post. They knew the famous traders by their Indian names: Wiiwiibish and Wiiwiibikwe.

They ate wild game: waawaashkeshi, zhiishiib and giigoonh — not just ogaa, but ginoozhe, mizay and awaazisii, too (see "Ojibwe Fish and Game" for translations). Everyone had a garden, growing beans, cucumbers and potatoes.

There was always manoomin, harvested from Ogechie, Onamia, Dean and Mallard lakes. The men took care of the lakes where white folks weren't allowed to rice.

Susan remembers when her mother would pick mashkiki (medicine) in the woods. "Someone had a sore on their foot one time, so she went and picked something," Susan recalls. "She

chewed it and put it where the sore was, and it went away."

The men were healers too: John Razor, George Boyd, Dan Boyd and Sam Mitchell — Susan and Maggie's dad. They all knew how to gather mashkiki from the woods.

Long winter evenings were spent wrapped in blankets, listening to their father tell stories of Wenaboozhoo — which could only be told when there was snow on the ground. A pot-bellied stove was their only source of heat.

Each spring and fall, they attended ceremonial powwows. "They always had that as far back as I can remember," says Susan. "There

was a dance hall at the point, then they moved it to where I live, then down to where it is now."

Sometimes they traveled to Lake Lena for ceremonies or berry picking. The Model A and Model T Fords were started with a crank, and when they had a flat tire, the men would lift the car up by hand and slide a log under the axle.

"We were so poor in those days," says Maggie. "Now I got a big house, and I don't need it. A lot of stuff I have now, I wish I would've had when my kids were small."

When Maggie was a teenager she married Jess Kegg and moved to Kegg's Point. The couple had 14 children, who were also raised in a tar-paper shack.

Susan graduated from Onamia High School and then raised four kids on her own. She saved up enough to buy lumber for a one-room house, which her dad and his friend built for her. She had a gas stove for cooking and a woodstove for heat, but still no electricity or running water.

When Art Gahbow was elected chief in the 1970s, things began to change. New houses sprang up, and dollars came in for job training, education, health care and other services.

"They built me a four bedroom house with electricity," Maggie recalls. "I was scared of it. I didn't want to move to that house."

"It sure is different nowadays," she continues. "It's so nice. We got new schools, and a clinic. When we got sick I don't know what we used to do. Now when we get sick all we have to do is go to the clinic."

Elfreda Sam, Susan and Maggie's cousin, sits down at the



Maggie Kegg and Susan Shingobe work in the Elders Room at Wewinabi Early Education in District I.

table and joins the conversation. Her father was Ole Weyaus, the brother of Jenny Mitchell. "I don't remember ever being in a hospital. I never remember anyone getting diabetes or cancer. The medicine they had then was better."

Maggie says, "We always ate the deer meat and ducks. Maybe that's how come we never got sick, eh? Now we eat that chimookoman food, we get sick."

For Maggie, today's luxuries don't quite measure up. "I liked the old days better than the new," she laughs. "Those were fun days. We never used to lock our doors. Nobody ever stole anything. Now we have to lock our doors. I'd rather live in a one-room house."

Ojibwe Fish and Game

Waawaashkeshi: Deer

Zhiishiib: Duck
Giigoonh: Fish
Ogaa: Walleye
Ginoozhe: Northern

Mizay: Eelpout

Awaazisii: Bullhead

Manoominike: s/he goes ricing

Aniindi ezhaayan? Where are you going?

Niwii-manoominike noongom: I'm going

ricing today.

New Fisheries Biologist Brings Experience, Education to Job

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer



It's a good time to be fisheries biologist at Mille Lacs, if you're up for a challenge. Invasive species, population dynamics, co-management and climate change create an environment where research topics are plentiful.

Carl Klimah, who joined the Band Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in November, came prepared for the job. Carl grew up in the Chicago area but always enjoyed the outdoors. "I've always liked fishing, and I was good at science, so I decided to make a hobby a profession," said Carl.

For college, Carl chose the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, one of the best natural resources colleges in the country.

From there he went to graduate school at Auburn University in Alabama for a master's in fisheries management. For his thesis he studied largemouth bass and the impact of the BP oil spill.

In his new position, Carl will be building up the Mille Lacs Band's fisheries department, possibly adding interns or employees while working to find solutions to the complex management challenges on Mille Lacs and other lakes.

In 2016, that will include a pilot project to assess the feasibility of creating a walleye hatchery. He will attempt to gather eggs and hatch them in a Band-owned building this year before growing them up in a natural environment on the reservation. If things go well, the Band may build a hatchery, possibly in partnership with the State of Minnesota.

Carl will also work on smaller lakes in the 1837 Ceded Territory. The Band is considering using Namachers Lake in District III to preserve the unique Mille Lacs strain of walleyes. Stocking is scheduled to begin next year with bluegills and perch to provide a prey base for walleyes, which will be added later.

The emphasis will likely remain the Big Lake, though. "We're in a changing situation with Mille Lacs," Carl said. "It's a different lake than it was. Invasive species, climate change, and other little problems have combined into one big problem."

Finding a Healthy Lifestyle Through Diet and Exercise

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

By the time she was 21 years old Brittany Nicole was taking five medicines a day to control her asthma. She was also taking medicine for high cholesterol. And she would struggle with migraines that felt like her head was splitting open.

A colleague suggested that Brittany, now 25, could benefit from visiting an acupuncturist. She told her it might help with some of her health issues.

"I told her I was open-minded and that I would try acupuncture to see if it helped," Brittany said.

On the first visit, the acupuncturist told Brittany, "You're too fat and you eat too much cheese."

Brittany, who has always been a very direct and candid person, laughed out loud when the woman told her that, but she also agreed that it was true.

At this same time Brittany, whose mother is Band member Dawne Stewart, was working on her Bachelor's Degree at Augsburg College. She was taking a class and her assignment was to keep a food journal for two weeks.

It was around Thanksgiving and after writing down everything she ate Brittany said she was appalled by the amount of food she consumed.

"Then, I saw my body in a full-length mirror," she said. "I hadn't lost any of my pregnancy weight, my daughter was a few years old and I was heavier than I was before I had her."

Brittany knew she had to change her life. She wanted to be healthier, weigh less and most importantly, she didn't want to

have to rely on multiple medicines to breathe.

She joined Weight Watchers and lost 50 lbs. Then she plateaued and the weight wasn't coming off. She started exercising and then decided to educate herself on food and calories.

"I learned that if I wanted to lose weight, I had to eat more green foods, more veggies. And if I wanted to tone up, I needed protein. But, I'm not saying I needed more meat, but foods that were rich in protein."

"I learned that a bag of potato chips, depending on the size, has as many calories as an avocado, but the avocado is rich in healthy oils and amino acids — the fats that are good for your body and protect your brain."

Based on her research and better understanding about food and how it works, Brittany continued her health and weightloss journey

Brittany, who has two children, has lost about 120 lbs. and is still working to create a healthier lifestyle for her family as well as the people she encounters.

She started doing yoga as a way to participate in a low-impact exercise that wouldn't trigger her asthma.

"Working out with asthma was challenging," said Brittany. "It wasn't enjoyable to be that fat person bouncing around the room. With yoga I could pick my fat body up and do it."

Today, Brittany is a certified yoga instructor and practices it daily.

She has also learned to be intentional about her eating. She strives to eat organically when possible and follows a flexitarian diet — which means flexible and vegetarian.

"I love food and I still love food," she said. "If I couldn't control what I ate and how I ate I knew I would never get the weight off. "

"I was eating a lot and eating anything I wanted and it was out of control," said Brittany. "I still give myself treats, but I think about it before I eat because now it's intentional.

Brittany has also started a catering company, "Organic Made Great," in an effort to share her story and to encourage others to eat in a healthy and deliberate manner.

By showing people how organic food can taste great and that it can be prepared in a way that is delicious and satisfying Brittany says she is able to get her message out through her catering business.

She typically sells healthy, home-cooked dinners on Sundays in the Twin Cities area.

"I decided to do it to help others," she said. "I can do this anywhere and anytime and share my story while I'm doing it."

"I learned that a bag of potato chips, depending on the size, has as many calories as an avocado, but the avocado is rich in healthy oils and amino acids — the fats that are good for your body and protect your brain."

- Brittany Nicole

Each New Year Brings New Resolutions For Many

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

There's something about the start of a New Year that compels many people to make promises to change their ways. Whether it's losing weight, saving more money or becoming a better person, the idea of starting over is a practice that's been around for thousands of years.

Around 4,000 years ago the Babylonians reportedly made promises to gods with the hope that they would earn good favor in the coming year. Often the promise was to decrease their debt.

Fast forward to 2016 and many people are still making that same resolution — along with others.

For Catherine Colsrud, the Commissioner of Administration, New Year promises go beyond what she can do for herself – she thinks of other people, too.

"I make a pledge to give people, even strangers, compliments, instead of just thinking it...like if they have a pretty scarf, or if their kids are well-behaved," Catherine said.

She also pledges to make donations throughout the year "other than to the casino."

Catherine also commits to trying something new or interesting and to do kind things for others. This past year she took a painting class and loved it, so she bought some canvas and plans to practice painting. She made fancy shawls for her great nieces, and they wore them when they danced for the first time this summer. Now, she needs to learn to make jingle dresses because her nieces want to try to that dance.

As she rings in 2016, Catherine has made a few additional resolutions she plans to practice, she said.

"I plan on giving up caffeine in the New Year. I am going to sew a quilt in the New Year, and I am going to eat more fruits in the New Year," she said.

Natalie Weyaus, a Band Elder who also works in the Band's Tribal Historic Preservation Office said "Resolutions were good when I was younger, and now I have to do what I resolved to do to keep up my healthy ways at my elder age. Living the Ojibwe way of life and practicing the seven teachings as best I can is what I can resolve to do now."

Some of the things Natalie had committed to in the past included watching her weight, using less sugar and eliminating pop to help control her diabetes.

She says she also "resolves to be more sensitive to others, and if I want to say anything in the negative to say it in a good way."

For those who do continue to make resolutions experts say that one way to make them work is to go public with them — tell others what you're doing so they can help keep you accountable. Social media is one way to share goals and in turn others might publicly weigh in on their own resolutions.

Another way is to set small specific goals — like losing 10 lbs in three months, or saving \$50 a month. Those who vow to saves thousands in a year, or lose a lot of weight might feel overwhelmed and then back off of their plans or feel defeated by their own resolutions.

Band member Ruth Sam, who works in the Community Development Department says she doesn't make resolutions because she might break them right way.

"Then I would have to push myself harder to keep the resolution."

Still she said, if she were to make one it would be to "finish the home projects," but she admits that would be challenging with four kids, one of them being an active 18-month old.

Experts suggest that monitoring your progress can help to

allow yourself time to make your resolutions stick. Ask your family and friends to check up on you to see how you're doing with your goals, or find a buddy who shares them so you can do it together.

Also, don't try to do make all of your resolutions happen at one time — like quitting smoking, losing weight, giving up sugar and exercising every single day. Start with smaller goals and build up to the bigger ones.

While some people like the idea of starting something new with each new calendar year, others don't follow suit. They avoid the practice because as Band member Jim Kalk says "a person can make a resolution any day of the year."

District III Program Administrator Shelly Peer agrees.

"I don't make New Year's resolutions," said Shelly. "I think it's just like when I say I am going to go on a diet and lose weight...I usually end up gaining! So I just take one day at time and hope for the best."

Whether you make resolutions or not, consider that new habits and new goals can be formed any time of the year and for any reason, not just on January 1.

The Band is partnering with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to provide **Commercial Drivers License training** to Band members. The 12-week course begins Tuesday, Jan. 19. For information, contact **Craig at the TERO office (320) 532-4778**.

Celebrating the Season: Districts Host Holiday Parties

Brett Larson, Bill Jones, Toya Stewart-Downey, Katie Draper Photographers

In each district, community members came together to celebrate the holiday season, mingling with their fellow neighbors at Districts I, II, III, and the Urban area. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season with your friends and family. Sending our best wishes for the New Year!













































URBAN AREA















ELDERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

















Mille Lacs Band Members Receive National Certification

Department of Athletic Regulation is expanding roles for band members

Several Band members have attended training and passed certification exams to become the first Band members to become nationally certified as timekeepers for boxing, muay thai and mixed martial arts (MMA). Mille Lacs Band Department of Athletic Regulation (DAR) Senior Inspectors Leroy Day, Dean Staples and Ed St. John joined DAR Commissioners Percy Benjamin, Donald Graves, Billy Jo Boyd and Wally St. John and Director Matt Roberson for the training at the world's largest casino.

The Chickasaw Nation Gaming Commission hosted the Turnage and Sutherland National Timekeeper Certification and Inspector Training at the Winstar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville, Oklahoma, located on the Texas and Oklahoma border.

The two-day training course took place in advance of Win-Star's nationally televised Bellator MMA event. The course covered the difference in rules for boxing, MMA and muay thai; how to use each piece of timekeeping equipment; the proper procedure for keeping time for each round; knockdowns, knockouts and injury time outs. The training also covered important topics such as proper ringside attire and etiquette. The course emphasized the proper way to communicate with an athletic commission for those who are looking for continued employment or looking to work with another state or tribal commission.

DAR Executive Director Matt Roberson said, "We have spent the last several months outlining our plan to be the first community-based athletic commission in the country. Our athletic commissioners share a vision that the DAR can have a larger impact on our community. We have identified several areas where we can implement our new ideas, and I believe the community as a whole will benefit."

"One of our primary goals is to put Mille Lacs Band Members in a position to succeed. Once we get training and ex-

perience for our guys, there is no reason we shouldn't be filling as many positions as possible with tribal members, rather than having those positions filled by other people. This isn't something that will happen overnight. The quality of events that Grand Casino holds requires professionals with a ton of experience; however, we are very excited to get the ball rolling and get people certified so they can begin working on getting experience."

This isn't the first time that the Department of Athletic Regulation has sent a band member for more training. Last July the department sent one of its lead inspectors,

Wanetta Thompson, to Boxing and MMA Judge School in San Diego, California, during the annual Association of Boxing Commissions Summit. Over the next year, she will balance her duties as an inspector with shadowing as a judge to gain experience and consistency.

The Department of Athletic Regulation welcomes band members who are curious about what the positions entail. "We have training throughout the year," said Roberson. "I would invite anyone who thinks they may be interested in becoming an Inspector to come to the training, then if they think it is something they may have a passion for, they can actually shadow and watch one of our more experienced Inspectors work during a fight."

Mille Lacs Band members with guestions are welcome to contact Matt Roberson at any time. His email address is Matt. Roberson@millelacsband.com and he can be reached by phone at 320-630-6573.



"One of our primary goals is to put Mille Lacs Band Members in a position to succeed. Once we get training and experience for our guys, there is no reason that we shouldn't be filling as many positions as possible with tribal members, rather than having those positions filled by other people."

— Matt Roberson



DISTRICT 2

History Comes Alive at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy

Brett Larson Staff Writer/Photographer

Students at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy learned on Nov. 24 that history is not just a dry subject confined to books. With inspiration from family liaison Brieanna Petersen and social studies teacher Dan Fahnle, they found history in their own communities and families.

Brieanna was listening to National Public Radio one day when she heard about a classroom project sponsored by Storycorps. Students across the country were asked to interview a parent, grandparent or other elder in their community to create the largest collection of oral history testimony gathered in a single day. The interviews would then be uploaded to the Internet to become part of the Library of Congress.

"I thought it was a really a unique idea," said Brieanna, "especially for our community and our school because we have family members working here, and it would fit really well with what we do here."

Dan agreed that it was a worthwhile project for Minisinaakwaang. "I felt like it was a positive experience for our students because it was a chance to connect with the community and not only learn from school but also from their families and other community members. Students took an active role in their learning and were able to see that the people who make up history are your everyday people."

The Storycorps website provided suggested questions, but most students designed their own interviews, which they conducted using a cellphone app. Interviews focused on topics like family, love, work, spirituality and military service. Once uploaded to the Internet, they are tagged with keywords to make the interviews searchable.

Six students participated in the Great Thanksgiving Listen. Seventh-grader Theresa Weous interviewed Biisa (Steve Aubid) and Tina Peet. Jordan Weous, an eighth-grader, also interviewed Tina.

Ninth-graders Molly Bohannon, Jewel Davis and Renee Hill interviewed Winnie LaPrairie, Monica Tobar and Vanessa Saros. Eighth-grader Kristen Ponthieux interviewed Tim Bishop.

Jewel enjoyed hearing stories about her mother from Monica, who told about visiting Minisinaakwaang years ago. Teresa



Among the participants in the Storycorps project were (back) Dan Fahnle, Brieanna Petersen, Molly Bohanon, (front) Theresa Weous, Tina Peet and Jordan Weous.

took on a very professional demeanor as she interviewed Biisa, Brienna said.

In her interview with Winnie, Molly was able to learn about her grandma, Julie Shingobe, who gave Molly her Ojibwe name. She focused the interview on Winnie's relationship with her late husband, Mushkooub Aubid.

Brieanna is hoping to repeat the event next year, bringing in more students to interview additional members of the community. Ideally, she would like to have the students conduct the interviews in the school's wigwam.

Molly's interview with Winnie can be heard at **storycorps**. me/interviews/love-and-traditions.

"I felt like it was a positive experience for our students because it was a chance to connect with the community and not only learn from school but also from their families and other community members."

— Dan Fahnle

Tribal Emergency Response Committee is Ready for Anything

The Mille Lacs Band communities have seen their share of emergencies in recent years. In 2010, a blowdown in Aazhoomog (District III) resulted in power outages, road closures and damaged houses. In 2012, unprecedented flooding in Aitkin County closed stretches of highway and cut off the Minisinaakwaang (District II) area.

Potential emergencies can range from the manmade — train derailments, chemical spills, shootings — to natural phenomena like floods, fire and disease.

The Mille Lacs Band government has a designated committee charged with planning for the worst and springing into action if needed: the Tribal Emergency Response Committee.

In 2000, the Band was one of five tribes from FEMA Region V to receive an initial startup grant to create a Tribal Emergency Management program. One of the key components of the grant was for the Band to create a unified decision-making body for incidents called a Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC).

The TERC would respond to incidents that require efforts beyond normal day-to-day operations, such as a hazardous materials spill or severe weather damage.

Tribal leadership determined that the TERC should consist of Executive Branch Commissioners, a backup for each Commissioner, and representation from Tribal Police, Tribal Emergency Management and Tribal Public Information Officers.

Since 2000 the TERC has participated in exercises to test their readiness ability, partnering with county, regional and state agencies. As membership has changed, new members have been mentored by seasoned TERC members with assistance from the Tribal Emergency Management Coordinator, Monte Fronk.

During the blowdown and floods in 2010 and 2012, TERC's unified command ability was tested. In the event of such an emergency, the Tribal Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for providing information to the TERC for overall direction and control of Band government resources involved in the response to a disaster.

The Emergency Management Coordinator also serves as a liaison with county emergency management directors as a well as state and federal emergency management personnel. The

Deputy Tribal Police Chief — currently Sara Rice — serves as a backup to the Coordinator in his absence.

With every training or exercise, members of the TERC build relationships with local, county, regional, state and federal agencies, and they demonstrate their dedication to the protection of life, natural resources and property in Mille Lacs Band communities.

Last summer, the TERC helped plan a tabletop exercise in Aitkin County that prepared local, state and federal governments for an oil spill.

In mid-December, the TERC was involved in another tabletop exercise with the Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services Department. The exercise involved a hypothetical disease outbreak and helped medical professionals consider what a proper response might be.

Katie Draper, who works in Government Affairs, has been trained as a Public Information Officer and served as facilitator of the exercise, which led participants through the first several hours of the emergency.

New generators

Another recent TERC initiative was the purchase of generators for community centers in all districts. The generators were installed this fall, and community center the staff was trained to use them when they were tested and activated Dec. 14-17.

Monte said, "We responded to concerns from community members, who wanted to know that if their district loses power, the community center will be able to support emergency operations or serve as a shelter if necessary."

The generators are large enough to fully operate the centers so they will have heat, water, air conditioning, showers and kitchens. They can also be used as community shelters, and the Band has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Red Cross to assist with staff and costs in the event of an emergency.

The generators can operate for several days before the need to refuel, which would allow Band departments to respond to life and safety concerns and road clearing before the generators need to be refueled.

The teamwork will continue in 2016 with additional appli-

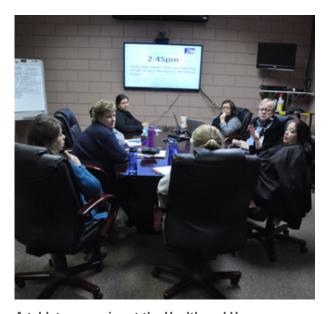
cations for grant funding for backup generators for other facilities in the districts.

Seventy-five percent of the cost of the generators came from a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant, and the rest through the Band. The Band was eligible for the grant because it had been included in two federally declared disasters in 2010 and 2012.

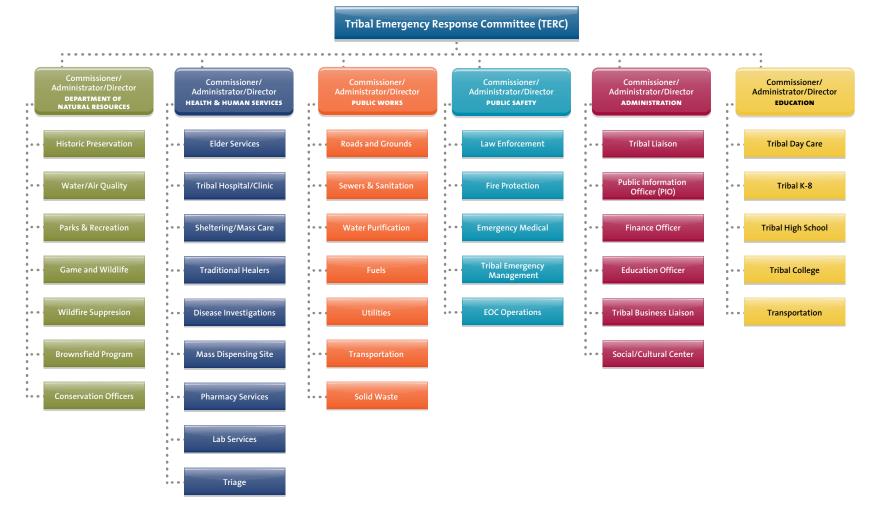
According to Monte, the request for backup generator power for the community centers was voiced during community meetings when Monte was completing the Band's hazard mitigation planning efforts.

"Due to the remote locations of our community centers and the fact that many rely on their own water and sewer systems, community members need a place to go for services if they lose power for a period of time, or during extreme situations like we experienced in 2010 and 2012," Monte said.

The purchase of the generators was a team effort between many departments, with Community Development taking the lead, with assistance from the Tribal DNR, the Grants Department and Tribal Emergency Management.



A tabletop exercise at the Health and Human Services Department on Dec. 15 gave medical personnel a chance to plan for an outbreak.



The chart above shows the various responsibilities of executive branch departments.





Aanjikiing/Changing Worlds:An Anishinaabe Traditional Funeral

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Mii iw gii-ni-giizhibii'amaang i'iw mazina'igan Aanjikiing/ Changing Worlds: An Anishinaabe Traditional Funeral ezhiwiinjigaadeg. Mii dash imaa i'iw mazina'iganing ani-dazhindamaan ezhi-gaagiigidod awiya maajaa'iwed.

We have finished writing the book Aanjikiing/ Changing Worlds: An Anishinaabe Traditional Funeral. In this book I am covering how to talk when you send the spirit down that path during a traditional funeral.

Ishke dash mii i'iw gaa-onji-inendamaan daokawisijigaadeg ezhi-gaagiigidoyaan iko animaajaa'iweyaan, ishke ninaniizaanendaan nawaj igo da-ni-bangiiwagiziwaad giniigaaniiminaang ge-nigikendangig i'iw ezhi-webiniged awiya maajaa'iwed.

The reason that I have decided to write the way I talk when I do a funeral, is I have fears that there will be fewer people in our future that will know how to talk at an Anishinaabe traditional funeral.

Ishke noongom ingiw mayaajaa'iwejig gaawiin nimbi-noondanziin da-gikinoo'amawaawaad awiya ezhi-gaagiigidowaad wiinawaa maajaa'iwewaad. Indayaawaag niin eni-gikinoo'amawagig, mii dash i'iw ge-wiinawaa ge-ni-aabajitoowaapan i'iw mazina'igan da-ni-nandawaabandamowaad i'iw ani-ginjiba'igowaad i'iw gaagiigidowin. Mii i'iw mayaamaw-zanagak ani-gaagiigidod awiya.

I have not heard of any other Anishinaabe who are doing funerals to be passing those teachings onto others. I have others who I have been teaching how to talk at these funerals. This book will be available to them to reference if they should forget how the talk goes. Funerals are the hardest talk to do when it comes to ceremonies.

Azhigwa ani-maajii-agindaman o'ow mazina'igan mii i'iw nitam ge-ni-agindaman i'iw Gaa-onjikaamagak ezhiwiinjigaadeg. Gidayaangwaamimininim daagindameg i'iw gaa-izhibii'igeyaan. Mii imaa weweni ani-waawiindamaageyaan gaa-onji-inendamaan da-okawisidooyaan omaa ezhi-gaagiigidod awiya maajaa'iwed.

When you begin reading this book, the first part that you will read about is the introduction. I encourage all of you to read what I have written in this part. It is here I do my best to explain why I have made the decision to share this information.

Ishke ishkweyaang nigii-pi-waabandaan gii-ozhibii'ang i'iw gaagiigidowin a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke a'aw akiwenziiyiban gaa-nitawigi'id ogii-ayaanan iniw mazina'iganan gaa-miinigod inow Anishinaaben gii-ni-okawibii'igaadeg i'iw gaagiigidowin. Ishke dash omaa gaye Gaa-onjikaamagak, mii gaye omaa ani-waawiinagwaa ingiw mindimooyenyibaneg naa akiwenziiyibaneg gaa-gikinoo'amawijig ezhising i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-maajaa'iwed awiya.

I have seen this talk written down by Anishinaabe in the past. The old man that raised me had written material that was given to him by other Anishinaabe where the funeral talk was written down. In this introduction I also mention the names of

those old ladies and old men of the past who had taught me how to do the talk at a funeral.

Mii gaye imaa gii-ozhibii'amaan ezhi-gaagiigidong i'iw wiisiniwin atamawaad a'aw Anishinaabe megwaa maa babaa-maawadisaadaminid o'ow aki inow odinawemaaganan azhigwa waa-ni-aanjikiinid, Babaa-maawadisaadang i'iw Aki ezhi-wiinjigaadeg. Mii imaa zagaswe'idid a'aw Anishinaabe nising endaso-onaagoshig dabwaa-abiitawind ani-wiidoopamaad inow odinawemaaganan gaa-inendaagozinid da-ni-aanjikiinid.

I have also written down the talk that goes with the feast where the spirit of the deceased is fed as he goes about and revisits the Earth before he changes worlds. It is called "Prefuneral Feasts." This is where the Anishinaabe feasts the three evenings before the wake eating with their relative that is about to change worlds.

Ani-giizhiikamaan ani-dazhindamaan i'iw, mii imaa ani-wiindamaageyaan ezhi-gaagiigidong owapii ani-abiitawind a'aw azhigwa waa-ni-aanjikiid, Abiitawind ezhiwiinjigaadeg. Mii imaa eni-wiindamaageng gaa-onjikaamagak isa gii-shawendaagozid gii-miinigoowizid ge-ni-izhaad a'aw Anishinaabe ani-gaagwiinawaabaminaagozid omaa akiing.

As I finish talking about those pre-funeral feasts, I then cover the talk that goes with the wake. This chapter is named "Wake." It is here the history of this ceremony is covered, where the Anishinaabe was looked with compassion and given a place to go when they were no longer seen on this Earth.

Mii dash imaa ani-ishkwaa-wiidoopamind apii abiitawind a'aw waa-ni-aanjikiid, mii dash imaa ani-wiindamawindwaa ingiw besho enawendaasojig ge-naadamaagowaad wanitaasowaad. Mii imaa da-mikameg i'iw gaagiigidowin imaa Besho Enawendaasojig ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

After finishing the meal with the spirit of the individual at the wake, the close relatives are given information that will help them with their grief. You will find this information in Close Relatives Talk.

Azhigwa ani-maadagindaasoyan, mii imaa da-ni-agindaman i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-aabajichigaadeg azhigwa ani-maada'adood i'iw miikanens i'iw ge-ni-bima'adoodi'iwapii ani-maajaa'indawiya. Mii gaye imaa da-ni-agindaman ge-ni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe azhigwa ani-ozhiitaa'aad waa-aanjikiinijin. Mii iw Azhigwa Maajaa'ind ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

As you begin your reading, you will read about the journey that the spirit of the individual takes as he goes down that path as he is sent off. It is here also that you will read about the preparations to be made to help the spirit on his journey. The section is called "Funeral."

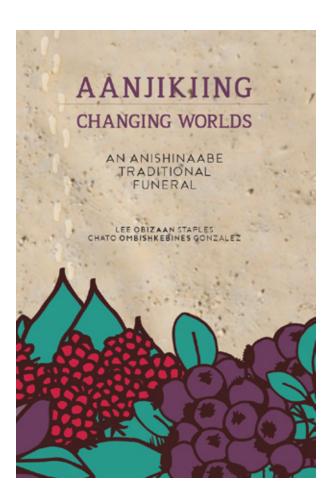
Mii dash gaye omaa ani-ozhibii'igaadeg geni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe azhigwa gaakiizhiitaad gii-pagadenimaad omaa akiing inow odinawemaaganan. Azhigwa gaa-niiwo-giizhigak mii imaa eni-dazhinjigaadeg i'iw onaagoshig wiisiniwin achigaadeg. Mii dash imaa ani-gikinoo'amaageng ezhising i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-apagizonjigaadeg i'iw wiisiniwin iwidi ayaawaad gidinawemaaganinaaanig. Mii dash i'iwapii da-ni-dagoshimoonod gaa-maajaa'ind. Mii dash o'owapii ani-wiidoopamaad dash inow odinawemaaganan gaa-odisaajin iwidi. Mii i'iw Gaatagoshimoonod ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

In the next chapter the instructions are given to Anishinaabe on what to do once they put their relative in the ground. After four days there is a talk that goes with the food that is offered up that evening. The talk is covered that goes with sending the food over there where our relatives are. It is at that time that the spirit has arrived over there where our people are. It is then that he shares in a meal with all of his relatives who are over there. This chapter is called "Post-funeral Feast."

Mii dash i'iw ayaapii a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-ni-izhichiged ani-mikwenimaad inow odinawemaaganan iwidi eyaanijin. Ishke ingiw gaa-nitawigi'ijig gaawiin i'iw memwech azhigwa bezhig i'iw gikinoonowin gaa-pimisemagak wiisiniwin ogii-atoosiinaawaa. Mii-go apane ayaapii gii-atamawaawaad i'iw wiisiniwin. Mii dash imaa gaye ani-wiindamaageng i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-aabajichigaadeg. Mii iw Mikwenimind Awiya ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

What the Anishinaabe did was every so often they would remember their relatives over there and put food. The old people that raised me did not necessarily wait a year to pass to put food for their relatives that had passed on. They would put their food periodically remembering their relatives. It is here that the talk is covered that goes with this ceremony. This chapter is called "One-year Memorial Feast."

Continued on page 14.



Coffee with Michael LeGarde

Arne Vainio, M.D.

Michael is the producer of Native Report. This is the eleventh season of the show, and it has really grown over the years. It currently airs in 28 states on over 100 stations and teaches us all about both historical and current issues important to Native American people. The show originates from the WDSE studios for Public Television, Channel 8 in Duluth, Minnesota.

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016, we will shoot the first segment, where I will be a part of the program. My focus on getting our people into medicine has really been sharpened in the last year or so. I have gone to schools and done mad science experiments for Native students so they can see we can be traditional and still be scientists. I have also done mad science experiments for non-Native students, so whatever ideas they may have about Native people have to include us as scientists and teachers.

The word "doctor" comes from the Latin word "docere," which means, "to teach." I truly feel one of my primary roles as a physician is to explain medicine to my patients in plain and simple terms. Medicine is complicated and technical, and the explanations are not always easy. There are hard conversations to be had about end of life planning and changing living situations, and decisions to continue on or to stop treatments can be heart wrenching.

Cancers, heart disease, diabetes, cataracts and anything else related to health care are fair game. I want to be responsive to the needs and questions we have as we move forward. My initial segment will air sometime in February and will start with a mad science experiment and an introduction, and we foresee the actual medical segments in future shows as being very short and hopefully to the point.

We want to have viewers send topics or questions to the website for Native Report (wdse.org/shows/native/) or to the Facebook page (facebook.com/Native-Report-WDSE-

WRPT-133872246623585/) for the program and not directly to me, as they will eventually be buried and lost.

I have to admit, I'm pretty excited about this and will post progress as it happens and will let everyone know when the first segment airs. In the meantime, please go to the Facebook page and follow and like Native Report.

I am extremely fortunate to be where I am, and things didn't have to turn out like they did. My father committed suicide when I was four years old. My mother died from complications due to diabetes the night I graduated from my residency in 1997. My older sister died due to liver failure from alcoholism just a few short years ago, and my younger brother died in a shack without running water or indoor plumbing just after Christmas the year after that.

I should have died in the shack next to him.

Only by the grace and caring of a couple handfuls of people did I make it through the maze that is the pathway to medical school, and many of those people have passed on, some before they knew how truly important they were to me.

The only way to repay them is to pay it forward. We are all those people for someone. Somewhere, someone (maybe a child) looks to you and wants to be everything you are, and we need to think about what we are teaching them. I will continue to look for the doctors and nurses and lawyers and teachers and filmmakers and all other professions among us. They may be young, but they also may be those who have been out of school for a long time and have come to realize they could be doing something more. I didn't go back to finish college until I was almost 30 years old, and it's only too late if you believe it's too late or if you let someone else convince you it is.

Life is about hopes and dreams and forgiveness and redemption

I want this to be a useful segment of the show. I want to be



able to share the gift of my medical education everyone. I want to make going to the doctor less scary, and I want medical issues to make sense. I truly want those of us meant for a path to medicine to find and to stay on that path, and I will do what I can to help make that so.

I need your help.

I need questions, and I need topics people care about. I can go on and on about health issues, but I want them to be the topics and questions we care about. Some of the questions may seem simple and embarrassing, but if you have that question, there's a good chance someone else also has it.

Ask it. We're all in this together.

Miigwech bizindaawiiyeg. Thank you for listening to me.

Arne Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at **a-vainio@hotmail.com**.



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE INDIANS

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

Cordially Invites You to Attend
The 32nd Annual
State of the Band Address
10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events & Convention Center



Band Members need not R.S.V.P.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy December Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mark Raymond Anderson Debra Lou Bellamy Mary Anne Bellonger Art Benjamin Gladys Marie Benjamin Rodney Dean Boyd Edith Ruth Bush Patricia Jean Clark Ronald James Crown Lorna Jean Day Bonnie Jean Dorr John Charles Dowell Jody Marie Dunkley Dora Ann Duran Brian Allen Eagle Isabel Eubanks Michael Gerard Gagne Janet Lee Gahbow Ella Reine Garbow Evelyn M. Granger Rose Marie Holmquist Katherine Ann Jackson Charles Ted Johnson Grover Joseph Johnson

Patty Jo Johnson James Ernest Kalk Jr. Marty Kegg Richard Duane Kegg David Henry Kost Lucille Kuntz Carmen Marie Lone Priscilla Joann Lowman Gloria Jean Lowrie Curtis Lee Martin Thomas Tecumseh McKenney Temperance Yvonne McLain Michael Samuel Merrill Jr. Cora Lucille Nelson Diane Lynn Nickaboine Rosalie Ann Noonday Dorothy Marie Olson Donna Jean Pardun Steven Lee Pewaush Shelley Ann Pindegayosh Patricia Marie Potter Dora Ann Sam Elaine Bernadette Sam Henry Sam Jr. Janice Marie Sam Ruth Ann Shaugobay Joycelyn Marie Shingobe Bonnie Shingobe-Neeland

Larry Marion Smallwood Steven Ralph St. John Joseph Alex Staples Kathleen Marie Vanheel Walter James Weyaus Sr. James Edwin Wind Sr. Nancy Lee Wood

Happy December Birthdays:

In loving memory of **David** Matrious on his 64th birthday, 1/3, he is sadly missed, by the Aubele's. . Happy Birthday, Jimmy on 1/4. Love your family • Happy Birthday to Janice Sam on 1/8, from her daughters and grandkids. We love you!

● Happy Birthday **D.Rose** (14) on 1/9 with love from Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Rachel, Joe, Simone, Donny, Joey, Sheila, Simon, Stone, and Derek. • Happy Birthday Big Joe on 1/10, with lots of love from your Wifey, Joey, Sheila, Donny,

Simon, and Simone. • Happy Birthday **Uncle Joe** on 1/10 from Daymon, Shawsha, Soul, Maysun, Dante, Selena, Stoner, and Derek. • Happy Birthday **Rachel** (36) on 1/14, with love from your hubby, Simone, Sheila, Donny, Joey, Simon, Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, Daymon, Stone, and Derek. • Happy Birthday to Brandon Wiedewitsch on 1/15 with love from mom, Brandi, Chantel. • Happy Birthday to my **daddy** on 1/15, with love from your baby girl Ahrianna Grace and Jazmin. Happy Birthday to Uncle Brandon on 1/15, with love from Elias, TANK, Alizaya and Rico. • Happy Birthday **Adam** Parker on 1/15, love dad, Taylor, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Val, Pie, Kev, Brad, Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wesley, Bianca, Randi,

Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, and Rachel.

Happy Birthday Anthony

(Tee) Passarelli on 1/18. We love you, love from mom and the rest of the family. ● Happy Birthday Worm on 1/22, love your family. ● Happy Birthday Lucille Kuntz on 1/25, from sister Alvina.

Other Announcements:

Thank you to everyone who helped with, sent flowers, gave condolences, and monetary gifts. Your thoughts, gifts and prayers helped our family during this difficult time. Sincerely, the family of Amanda Drumbeater Miller

Submit Birthday Announcements

issue is January 15.

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is 20 WORDS OR LESS to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com
or call 612-465-8018.
The deadline for the February



Aanjikiing/Changing Worlds continued from page 12.

Mii gaye imaa ishkwe-ayi'ii imaa mazina'iganing ozhibii'igaadeg gakina iniw ikidowinan omaa ani-aabajichigaadeg ani-wiindamaageng weweni awegonen endazhinjigaaadeg. Ikidowinan izhiwiinjigaade.

At the end of the book there is a glossary with all the words utilized in this book. Each word used in the book is given a definition. This is called "Ojibwe-English Glossary."

Mii dash omaa gidani-ayaangwaamiminim da-niaabajitooyeg o'ow mazina'igan da-ni-gikendameg weweni i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-aabajichigaadeg ani-maajaa'ind gidanishinaabeminaan. a'aw Gegoo debinaak ani-izhichigekegon azhigwa ani-Ishke Gidaa-wii-wawiingezim. maajaa'iweyeg. dash mii imaa ani-gagaanzominagog a'aw asemaa dabwaa-aabajitooyeg da-bi-miizhiyeg o'ow gaagiigidowin. Mii iko ingiw gidanishinaabeminaanig ishkweyaang gaa-izhichigewaad, weweni ogii-oasemaakawaawaan inow owiij'anishinaabemiwaan da-gikinoo'amaagowaad ani-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe ani-asemaaked.

I am strongly encouraging you guys to use this book to learn the

talk that goes with sending the spirit of our people off. Do not do things half-heartedly as you do these funerals. You should try to do the best you can. It is here I am also encouraging you to bring me tobacco before you go on to use this information. This is what our Anishinaabe of the past did, they would respectfully bring tobacco to their fellow Anishinaabe to teach them what is done in any ceremony that Anishinaabe were given.

Ishke gaye omaa niwii-wiindamaage, gaawiin nizhooniiyaakaadanziimin o'ow gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang. Gaawiin omaa meshkwadoonigan inga-gashki'aasiwaanaan aanogo ginwenzh gii-tazhitaayaang gii-ozhibii'amaang o'ow mazina'igan. Mii eta-go misawendamaang a'aw Anishinaabe da-ayaangwaamizid da-ni-gikendang o'ow maajaa'iwewin da-ni-giige'ind idash a'aw Anishinaabe qiniiqaaniiminaanq.

It is also here that I want to inform people that we are not making money off this Anishinaabe ceremony. We will not be given any royalties even though the long hours put into writing this book. It is our only wish that the Anishinaabe work hard at learning how to do these funerals and to benefit our Anishinaabe of the future.



Nay Ah Shing High School students Kali Sam, Dajatay Barnes and Mia Anoka came to the government center on December 4 with social studies teacher Amanda Sorby to raise money for a 2017 senior trip to Puerto Rico and an educational tour of NewYork City and Washington D.C. According to Amanda, students will learn about government and history in Washington while touring the Capitol and meeting with elected officials. In New York, they will see the sights and attend a Broadway play. You can donate to the effort by sending a check to "Nay Ah Shing School Senior Trip" (for Puerto Rico) or "Close Up Foundation" (for Washington and New York) and turn them in to Amanda. You can designate a student by writing his or her name on the bottom of the check.



GICHIMANIDOO GIIZIS GREAT SPIRIT MOON JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Want your even Email myles.gorham@	nt here? redcircleagency.com or ca	all 612-465-8018.			1	2
Visit millelacsband.co	om/calendar for additional N	Aille Lacs Band events				
3	Tabata Workout Sessions 6–7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	5 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Minisinaakwaang	DII-A Food Sovereignty & Sustainability with Winona Laduke 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Tabata Workout Sessions 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	7 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Chi Minising	8	Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Service 11 a.m4:30 p.m. 10-11 a.m. (Elders) DI Community Center Kids Crafts: Story Book Time and Corn Husk Doll 12-3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
10	Tabata Workout Sessions 6–7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	State of the Band Address 10 a.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs	Tabata Workout Sessions 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center	14 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Hinckley	15	16
17	Tabata Workout Sessions 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	19 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Nay Ah Shing	Breathe Free Support Group 12–1 p.m. Tabata Workout Sessions 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley DIIA Legislative Meeting 2 p.m. Chiminising CC	Elder Services Meeting Mille Lacs ALU District I Band Assembly 10 a.m. Nay Ah Shing	Friday Night Fights 7 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley	23
24	25 Tabata Workout Sessions 6–7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	26 Band Assembly 10 a.m. Aazhoomog	Tabata Workout Sessions 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DII-A Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.	Urban Area Community Meetings 5:30–7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Band Assembly 10 a.m. Hinckley DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.	29	30 Ojibwe Mitten Workshop 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
31 Ojibwe Mitten Workshop 12–4 p.m.	Construct Tomorrow:	·	3:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. struction careers with hands-c ind out how to EARN while yo	·		

Mille Lacs

Indian Museum

and no expensive college tuition costs. Contact Craig Hansen, **Craig.Hansen@millelacsband.com** or **320-532-4778** with questions.

Purchased/Referred Care

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health Services Purchased/Referred Care

What is Purchased/Referred Care (PRC)?

 PRC, formerly known as Contract Health Services (CHS) is a federal program for those who meet eligibility requirements to help supplement insurance.

Who is Eligible?

- Per federal law, there are eligibility requirements in addition to meeting the direct services policy of the facility.
 These include:
 - You are a member or descendant (under the age of 18) of a federally recognized tribe or have close ties acknowledged by your tribe.
 - You live on the reservation or within the Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA) for your tribe.
 Mille Lacs Band CHSDA counties include:
 - Mille Lacs
 - Aitkin
 - Pine
 - Kanabec
 - You get prior approval (referral from provider) for each case of needed medical service or give notice within 72 hours in emergency cases (30 days for elderly and disabled).
 - You have exhausted all alternate resources (insurance) or have shown proof of denial of coverage.

Apply for Alternate Resources:

To schedule an appointment with Circle of Health:

- Phone: Toll Free: 800-491-6101
- Health Benefits Coordinator: 320-532-7741
- Health Benefits Coordinator (Hinckley area): 320-384-4603
- Fax: 320-532-4354

Contact Us:

For more information on PRC processes or to make a notification, please feel free to contact us:

Phone: 320-532-4163, ext. 2502.

Are you an Elder or do you know an Elder who has a story to tell?

The Ojibwe Inaajimowin is looking for Elder stories for upcoming issues. Send your name, contact information, and a brief description of the Elder you would like to feature to toya@redcircleagency.com, or myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call Myles at 612-465-0653 or Brett at 320-237-6851.

Volunteers Wanted

Government Affairs is looking for Band members who may be willing to volunteer to attend events sponsored by the Band. If you are interested, call the Chief Executive's office at 320-532-7486 or email **shena.matrious@millelacsband.com** and ask to be put on the list.

Reporters Wanted

The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the Inaajimowin newsletter, millelacsband.com, and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos, or has an interest in writing, send an email to **brett.larson@millelacsband.com** or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability.

Snow Plow Policy

Public Works and Housing departments are responsible for snow plowing in all districts of the Mille Lacs Reservation. After any snowfall event, Public Works crews will first open roadways, and when those are completed, they will move on to private residences of Elders and disabled Band members.

Non-Elder private residences can be plowed for a \$25 fee, paid in advance.

The Housing Department plows elder rental units. Plow operators wait to hear from the Public Works crew before starting to plow.

If you have questions about plow service, contact Public Works at (320) 532-7448.



The committee planning next summer's 50th Annual Iskigamizigan Powwow in District I met at the government center on December 8.

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Business Development Center

Attention Enrolled MCT Members: Do you have a great business idea, but need help funding the start up? Want to know what resources are available to you? Already have a business and would like to expand? If you have any business questions, please contact us! A few things we offer are:

- Micro Loans up to \$5,000
- Macro Loans up to \$150,000
- General Business Counseling
- Financial Counseling
- Business Plan Development
- Minority Certification Assistance (Federal, State)

*Please call to request a Going into Business Packet (GIBP), which lists requirements, procedures and more information.

For more information, please contact Heather Reuter, Business Development Specialist @ 218-335-8583, ext. 118 or hreuter@mnchippewatribe.org

Would you like to receive the *Inaajimowin*?

Band members who want to be added to the Inaajimowin mailing list can call Myles at **612-465-0653** or email him at **myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com**.

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millelacsband.com





Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.

INAAJIME

FEBRUARY 2016 | VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 02



The Sweetgrass Girls sang traditional songs and the National Anthem at the Jan. 12 State of the Band

CONCURRENT JURISDICTION APPROVED ELECTION PROCESS UNDERWAY

FOOD PROJECT TAKES SHAPE YOUNGEST NATIVE SPEAKER

Chief Executive Delivers Annual State of the Band Address

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

There are times when the only people who need to know what is happening are the people who are in the room.

That was the case with this year's State of the Band address, delivered by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, on a cold Tuesday morning early last month.

She told the hundreds of Band members and others who attended the event, held at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center on Jan. 12, that her address was meant for family. In other words, it was meant for Band members, their families and Band employees who were in the room. The speech was filled with gratitude and accolades, but it was also about family business and hard topics that needed to be addressed rather than for public consumption.

To that end, there were no media outlets present, nor were the usual dignitaries invited to this year's event. This departure from previous years was welcomed by many who were overheard saying that was how it should be.

Some of the content was meant to go public, such as the big news that the Department of Justice had accepted the Band's Tribal Law and Order Application (see page 8). This means that crimes committed on the Reservation can be prosecuted in federal court, which will lead to stiffer penalties. The Band is the second tribe in the country to have its application approved.

Also highlighted were reminders of the successes that the Band realized in 2015 such as overturning state autopsy laws and the legislation that allowed Pine Grove Academy to reopen as a tribal satellite school — the first in the nation. Melanie also reminded attendees of the Band's efforts to exercise its tribal sovereignty to hold hearings about a proposed pipeline and its purchase of a hotel in Minneapolis.

"We have challenges, but overall, we are doing things right," she said. "We are planting seeds for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to be secure for seven generations into the future."

Another prevailing theme in Melanie's address was justice — social, economic and environmental justice. She shared with the audience the Band's plans to build the largest housing development it has ever carried out, that the Band continues to buy back the land it lost and that it has had record success in transferring land into federal trust status.

She talked about the diversification of the Band economy and investments, and she shared the news that she would like to implement her economic justice plan.

"As an employer, the Mille Lacs Band government should be providing a livable wage to every Band member who works for us," she said. "I want to lead the way by setting the example for the rest of the nation."

She wants to "right-size" government operations, reduce the demand on government programs and find ways to reduce the unemployment rate. Melanie also shared that she wants to reward Band members "who work hard every day," and don't rely on the Band's programs.

Melanie discussed the opiate crisis that has plagued Indian Country, the increase in crime and more importantly, the solutions that can help address these problems such as the development of an in-patient facility for Native people. She also talked about the development of a "one-stop center for families in crisis," which will break ground in 2016.

During her speech she reminded the crowd that "the most important thing that we can do is to follow the teachings that have been given to us as People. We need to value these cultural teachings and recognize the reason they have been passed down to us from generation to generation as Anishinaabe."

Joe Nayquonabe Jr. served as the master of ceremonies for the 32nd Annual State of the Band address that commenced with the ceremonial drum, grand entry by the AmVets Post 53, the Flag Song by Little Otter and the invocation by Lee "Obizaan" Staples. Lee told attendees that during his invocation he said, "If we work together we will be much stronger."

He also talked about the devastating use of opiates by pregnant women and said, "I'm hoping here to be able to discourage our women from doing that."

He asked for help to prevent people from committing crimes due to drug use, and for support for bringing back the language, teaching and ceremonies. He asked that the Band members have faith and work together.

In her remarks to Band members, Secretary Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu shared how many Band Assembly meetings have been held, how many bills passed and how many resolutions have been made.

Carolyn highlighted the Band Assembly's goals, which included continuing to develop a legislative website and library. She said the Band Assembly is continuing to review and revise the revenue allocation plan and is seeking to revise statutes.

Carolyn shared some of the Band Assembly's accomplishments and plans that include more jobs in District I, building a powwow structure in DII and a new community center in Hinckley.

"We hold ourselves to the highest standards, and the Band Assembly is here to serve the people of Band," she concluded. "Our job is to find the best way to serve Band members."

In her remarks, Chief Rayna Churchill talked about strides the court is making in its efforts to settle disputes. She shared the court's caseload and its resolutions. She also saluted the court's peacemaker Lori Vilas for her work.

Rayna shared some grim statistics about students' absenteeism rates from schools and said, "We need to focus on Mille Lacs Band kids" to reduce the number of absences.

The full remarks from Melanie, Carolyn and Rayna can be found on pages 7 and 8 and at **millelacsband.com**.











2016 State of the Band Address

Chief Executive Melanie Mandaamin Benjamin January 12, 2016



Adame Speaker, Members of the Assembly, Madame Chief Justice, Judges of the Court of Central Jurisdiction, my fellow Band members...and family...it is my duty under Band law and my honor as Chief Executive to deliver the 2016 State of the Band Address.

I want to begin by saying Miigwech to my own family members. To my son Clayton, and daughter-in-law Candy...to all my grandchildren...my sisters and brothers...and especially my mother, Frances, Miigwech for the love and support you provide. Nimama, you are my inspiration.

Also, Miigwech to the other elected officials, who work so hard on behalf of every Band Member in this room. And a special thanks to each Mille Lacs Band Member here today.

There are so many Band Members who are devoted to our Band...who have deep love for who we are...and despite the challenges we face, will never move away, and will never give up trying to improve our community.

You work hard each day, not just as employees, but as community volunteers, as family members. Maybe you're an Elder who reads to children at school...maybe you coach a youth basketball team...maybe you are always there to help at funerals... maybe you have opened your home and your heart to a child in need...or maybe you are taking care of an Elder.

There are hundreds of Band Members who give...and love... and give again...but who do not expect to be thanked. Especially, our traditional people. Today, I say Chi Miigwech, to each of you. You are the heart of the Band, and so appreciated.

Lately, I have been thinking about justice. What does justice mean for us? In Chapter 24 of our Band Statutes, it says: "At times the circle of peace and harmony amongst the people will be disrupted.

This circle of life needs to be restored in a manner that permits the integrity of the individual to be maintained so that the community will continue to grow and prosper."

At times, it seems that we spend all of our time as a Band government fighting to restore justice. We spend all of our time trying to restore the circle of life so that people can maintain their integrity and the community can exist in harmony. Today we will talk about justice, we will talk about 2015...and we will talk about the future.

Achievements in 2015

2015 was an important year in the history of the Band. It was a year of real progress. Together, we accomplished great things.

In the spring, something historic happened. Our friend, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, helped us get legislation through Congress allowing us to reopen Pine Grove Academy. We had been working on this for three years together — and it was an uphill battle, because the Congress has a permanent ban on adding any new BIA schools to their inventory. It involved many trips to Washington D.C.

Thanks to Betty McCollum, the legislation passed, and Pine Grove opened as the first tribal satellite school nationwide! It is now permanently open for Band children, and we are a national pilot project.

Last winter, out of the sadness and the strength of one family — the law of the state was changed. The Aubid/LaPrairie family stood up for our right to say "no" to the state when it comes to autopsies of our people. After spending a night in a snowstorm, the family obtained a court order mandating the release of their loved one. But a major injustice was done, in the way they were discriminated against, as Anishinabe people.

We assigned our Government Affairs team to do whatever was needed to change state law. It became a full time job for them last spring. With the support of Senator Tony Lourey, who introduced and fought for the legislation...and with the brave testimony of Winnie LaPrairie...who changed the minds of many lawmakers, the bill became law. This was a battle for religious and racial justice.

Miigwech to the Aubid family for their courage, and our Government Affairs team, led by Band Member Jamie Edwards, the best lobbyist in Minnesota!

Last summer, when it seemed a done deal that Enbridge would be allowed to build a pipeline through District II...without consulting us...we exercised our tribal sovereignty to hold our own public hearing on the Sandpiper pipeline. Our people and staff testified about how this pipeline would defile our land...our water...and our rights. We demanded a full environmental analysis...rather than the shortcuts that the State Public Utilities Commission had decided to allow.

That hearing made a huge impact. We generated national media attention...we shined a spotlight on the flaws in the state process, and the coziness between the oil companies and the state agency that is supposed to regulate them. After that hearing, the Band Assembly and I made the decision to intervene as a legal party in the state process. We hired one of the best environmental attorneys in Minnesota, and we used the hearing report in our request to the Judge. Officially, we are now a legal party in this process, and they are required to listen to us, whether they want to or not!

And with White Earth, Honor the Earth and other friends, we are making progress. Recently, the Supreme Court of Minnesota sided with us. Enbridge is now required to conduct a thorough environmental analysis. This is a great victory, although there is more work to do, including in Washington D.C.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will do whatever we must to stop this pipeline and other mining projects from harming our resources. This fight is about Environmental Justice — and we will win!

For our Band economy, this has been a very good year. We continue to diversify our economy and our investments. We now operate four lines of business: Gaming, Hospitality, Marketing and Small Businesses, and all are doing well.

Our big news in 2015 was that we bought the Doubletree Minneapolis Park Place hotel, just minutes from the Convention Center, Target Center and the new Vikings Stadium.

Growing our non-gaming businesses is crucial, because we must have other industries we can rely on. It is also essential that we develop our economy in District II, which remains our greatest challenge. An exciting business proposal has been brought to the Band Assembly, which I hope will be acted on soon.

We have challenges, but overall, we are doing things right. We are planting seeds for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to be secure seven generations into the future.

For tribal governments, this is Economic Justice.

A major success this year was getting 400 acres in District I transferred into federal trust status. At this sight, the largest housing development the Band has ever carried out will begin. The first phase will include 56 homes. The second phase will









bring the total to more than 90.

We are constantly buying back more of the land we lost, and we had record success transferring land into federal trust status, even though Mille Lacs County fought us on every transfer.

Last December, we opened the old Budget Host hotel as a place where anyone can stay. It is now called the "Mino Bimaadiziwin". Band Members in crisis now have a place to spend a few days while they turn things around, and our first year of operation has been a success. No Band Member should ever be homeless again.

This is Social Justice.

Our Anishinabe College has a new partnership with Fond du Lac Tribal Community College, offering 16 classes on the reservation, using technology to deliver teaching. Everything from American Indian studies — to business classes — to Calculus is being offered, and not just here in District I. Students in Districts II and III can take the same classes at the East Lake Community Center...and Pine Grove Leadership Academy.

Anyone can now earn an Associate of Arts degree! I learned on Facebook — our "High-Tech Moccasin Telegraph" — that Band Elder Carol Nickaboine earned all A's! Carol's family is so proud of her — she is a role model for all of us that it is never too late to earn your degree! And go even further. We have Mothers and daughters like LeAnn Benjamin and Joyce Shingobe earning their Master's Degrees together! College is possible for anyone! Access to Education is also about Social Justice.

Improving public safety in all districts is a top priority. We negotiated and signed an historic agreement with four other Minnesota tribes creating a joint Tribal Task Force. We can now share information and resources to stop crime on our reservations.

The Mille Lacs Band led this effort...which has already resulted in stopping criminals who go "Rez-hopping" around Minnesota. They can no longer run away and set up shop on one reservation after another, because our police ALL know who they are.

We are finally making progress with Aitkin County, and are closer than ever to a Mutual Aid Agreement that will recognize the authority of our tribal police to protect and serve Band Members in District II. However, we are also working very hard on legislation that will allow the authority of our tribal police to be recognized in all jurisdictions.

This work is about public safety and criminal justice.

There are many other achievements from 2015. We are now in a good place with the Governor of Minnesota. We sit down, we talk and he listens.

Our tribal court is a place where Band member families can seek justice. The court is getting more active, and serving its mission to restore the circle of peace and harmony.

And finally, I've never seen a more active Band Assembly, and commend Speaker Beaulieu, and Representatives Blake, Aubid and Davis for their hard work for the Band.

The Executive Branch runs the programs, but the Band Assembly decides how our funds are allocated, and conducts oversight of our programs. Each of these achievements I've been talking about were done together with strong cooperation between the branches. Miigwech, to each of the elected officials, for your outstanding leadership.

Last year, we held public meetings in all three districts. We heard from moms, dads, grandmothers, Elders, young people, even former drug addicts and those who spent time in prison. These were voices we needed to hear, and a dialogue we must continue.

Many ideas were offered: About prevention, police response, and community involvement.

I was so impressed with Band Members who have changed their lives after addiction, and even after time in prison...who bravely shared their stories about the impact drugs had on their lives, and their loved ones.

We took all the ideas and solutions offered at these meet-

ings, and created a Community Survey, which asks for your thoughts about each idea. If you have time, please fill out the survey today and leave it in the boxes in the back of the room as you leave. It will also be mailed to all households. This winter, we will hold more meetings to discuss these ideas. As with most problems we face, you — the Band members — hold the answers! Government cannot solve this problem alone. It will take everyone.

In the meantime, we have done more than talk...we are on the front lines fighting this epidemic. First, there was a massive education effort last year, which the government and community members were involved with. We held two statewide conferences at Mille Lacs with other tribes and health care experts...working to develop solutions.

We held a Band-wide conference as well, hosted by Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations, to generate ideas and solutions from Band Members. We met with state and federal officials. I also testified before the U.S. Senate about this crisis.

Out of this work, we have launched the Family Spirit program, a culturally based parent education program that educates women and their families in cultural parenting.

We have also developed a program for expectant mothers who suffer from addiction. This program will provide housing, treatment and support throughout pregnancy, as well as a safe place to recover and nurture their babies after birth. There is a beautiful location which we hope to use for this program, which could open as soon as this spring.

Last year, I told you about research we have done with a national laboratory that has found that we are more vulnerable to addiction than other ethnic groups just because of our DNA. We are rapid metabolizers, which means these chemicals go through our systems very quickly...and addiction can happen nearly instantly.

The Manidoog made our ancestors the healthiest people in the world. We were not meant for these poisons. We must arm our youth with this knowledge. We need the help of every Band Member to get the word out. Education is prevention, and the job of everyone.

We must also increase access for all Band men and women struggling with addiction to get in-patient treatment. Currently, there is no in-patient facility in Minnesota just for Native people. Filling that void has been a major priority of mine and Commissioner Moose. With the support of the Band Assembly, we are very close to making such a facility a reality, which would be the only Native American in-patient facility in Minnesota.

Last year, I also directed Commissioner Moose to work with the Band Assembly and the Tribal Court to develop a plan for a "one-stop" center for families in crisis. With the Band Assembly's support, this project will break ground in 2016.

This Center will offer a warm, welcoming, and friendly environment for children and their families, with a focus on nurturing and family preservation. Miigwech to the Band Assembly for their partnership in making this project a reality!

While there is much work to be done with addiction, we are making progress. How do I know this? Because somewhere, in our Band community, there are three women. I don't know who they are...or where they are from...but I do know they are Mille Lacs Band members. And they were suffering from opiate addiction when they found out they were pregnant.

These women loved their babies enough to ask for help. With intervention, support and medical help from our clinic and staff, in 2015 these three women delivered healthy babies who tested drug-free when they were born.

As a government, we have no way of knowing who is pregnant or who is using drugs. But families do. Whether it was increased awareness, the public education campaign, or encouragement from the family, these women took that step to ask for help.

Three babies now have promising futures filled with hope and opportunity, because they were born with the gift of health from their mothers. These three women are proof that there is

hope...it is possible to make progress and stop this epidemic.

Finally...there is one more thing...the most important thing... that we can do: Follow the teachings that have been given to us as People. We need to value these cultural teachings and recognize the reason they have been passed down to us from generation to generation, as Anishinabe.

But our spiritual leaders say that we also have to address the internalized racism that exists within our community. Internalized racism is when we consciously and subconsciously believe the negative stereotypes and images from the media...and from white history books...that defined us as being inferior.

The underlying sadness, frustration, anger and rage we have held over this happening to us...has caused us to turn upon ourselves...upon our families...and upon our own people. Internalized racism brings about self-hatred. It is the reason that we can be our own worst enemies.

It is also the pain of this self-hatred that has brought about the problems we are faced with today in our communities: The high incarceration rates and addiction...the stress related health issues like high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, depression and grief.

I was told that what we have gone through as Anishinabe is known as Collective Trauma — going through a distressing experience as a group. We have carried the stress from all of this within us and have never processed it...from generation to generation. Government programs, more housing, better schools, and better clinics can help to improve our lives. But all of these will fall short if we don't address the trauma.

At the next community meetings, we will talk about ways to do this. Justice for our Community is bringing back what we were given as a people. We were robbed, stripped and looked down on for practicing our teachings and ceremonies. It was the worst possible thing any government can to do any people. We can recover. There is hope. But we need to celebrate and bring into our homes and lives all the Manidoog gave us.

Tribal law and order act

Our application to get Federal jurisdiction under the Tribal Law and Order Act was just signed last week, and now is official. This means we can get federal jurisdiction over the worst crimes on our reservation. Those criminals can be prosecuted in Federal court and will be sentenced to Federal prison. We are only the 2nd tribe in the United States to be granted this status!

We need this message to go out to drug dealers, gang members and anyone intent on committing violent crimes on our lands — we will catch you, and when we do, you are going to Leavenworth, not Stillwater...and you are not getting out for a very, very long time. Tell the dealers...if you don't want to go to federal prison, get off our lands now, and stay out.

Miigwech to the federal officials who did the right thing at the BIA, the Interior Department and the Department of Justice! Together, we will restore order to our lands — and fight for the right of our children and our elders to be safe in their homes. After all...that is what it is all about! That is justice!

Economic justice initiative

Each year, the Chief Executive issues directives to the Commissioners at State of the Band, and proposes new initiatives. I have many directives for our commissioners this year. But I am sharing those with you in writing, which you will find on your tables.

But there is one major initiative I want to discuss, that impacts every Commissioner and every Band member. With our Tribal Law and Order Act application in place and our reservation status firmly backed by the federal government...we are on the path to legal justice for the Band.

There are other kinds of justice we fight for...environmental justice, Social justice, racial and religious justice. We can influence some of these issues, but do not have complete control over them.

But there is another area of justice that the Band does have the power to shape...and make reality. It will mean transforming the way we have been operating...and transforming the expectations of individual Band Members.

But the end result could be the biggest change we have known in 25 years.

What I am talking about, is Economic Justice for each Band member. Economic Justice is when all people have the opportunity to earn enough money to live a dignified, productive, and creative life. Economic justice is when everyone who can contribute to society does so...and no one takes advantage of anyone else.

Band members, our revenue is stable now, but our enrollment continues to grow. Our non-gaming businesses will help us maintain per capita payments in the future...but with growing enrollment, we need a bigger plan. One that brings about economic justice, for each Band member. The Economic Justice Plan I am proposing has three components.

First — We will right-size and decentralize Band government.

Second, we will decrease the number of unemployed Band members who are dependent on Band government. Using Band programs is supposed to be temporary help to get on your feet...not a way of life.

Third, with savings from reduced government...I propose that we shift that savings to those Band members who work hard every day to provide for their families...who contribute to the Band...and who sacrifice for our community and their families.

Right-sizing government, while helping the working poor and middle class Band members get ahead, and moving the unemployed into the working world, is what economic justice is. The Executive Branch will immediately begin working on a strategic plan to reinvent, rebuild and reorganize the Executive Branch. There are two conditions that will make this work.

First, Band government must decentralize, and delayer. We need services to be housed and delivered in each of the districts. We need equity, so the local village communities get better, faster service...and have more control over programs in their community.

Second, government which works better also costs less! Transforming the system will result in a more efficient Band government. We can reduce the government budget. I direct the Commissioners to begin this work immediately. Commissioners Colsrud and Palomaki...I direct you to lead the Commissioners in bringing this plan to me and the Band Assembly by May 1, with an estimate of the savings that will be achieved from reducing government.

The second part of my Economic Justice Plan is to reduce the need for Band programs. Unless a person is an Elder or disabled, they should be working. Per capitas are intended to supplement a working person's income, not replace it.

Most Band members are devoted to their families...they are providing for their families...sometimes on minimum wage... and they do not ask the Band for help. We have always had people who worked harder than others — that is just the way it is. We accepted people for the skills they had...and we found ways to exist by hunting and fishing together...by gathering rice and berries together...and by building our homes together.

The skilled helped out the non-skilled. The stronger helped the less strong. The young helped the Elders. The Elders taught the young ones.

As a Band, together we found ways to live through a thousand winters. But everyone, no matter who they were, no matter their age or their abilities, had responsibilities. There were no expectations that some people had a right to be taken care of without contributing anything.

There are a small number of Band members who are doing this. This is unfair to the Band members who get up every day and work hard to provide for their families. It is unfair to the elders who worked hard their whole lives and are now retired.

Sometimes it seems like 80% of our efforts in Band gov-









ernment are directed toward 20% of the people. This has to change.

We have Band members who need help, and we will continue to provide that help, but there is a difference between a hand up and a hand-out. We need to give people the chance to get off programs and into work. The Band can offer employment opportunities. But with opportunity, comes a responsibility on the individual...to take the chance...to use their ability and their potential to the fullest. And we must not only lift people out of poverty. We must transform their horizons and hopes as well — through helping people get the skills they need for better jobs.

The third point of my Economic Justice Plan, is a shifting of wealth to those who work hard every day, who struggle to make ends meet and are contributing to the community. The United States has become a country of the Haves and the Have-Nots. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. I am talking about the working poor. The federal minimum wage is not enough for a one or two parent household to live off of.

As an employer, the Mille Lacs Band government should be providing a livable wage to every Band member who works for us. I want us to lead the way by setting the example for the rest of the Nation. With the help of economic experts, I propose to the Band Assembly that we work together to reduce government and create an economy where every Band member who serves the Community feels the savings from reduced government.

There are many ways this could be done. But what I am sure it will mean, is a reduction of the demand on government programs...and that more people who are unemployed will want to become employed.

We always talk about helping the Band members in need. But isn't it time, that we help and reward the Band members who work hard every day...who try to always make the right choices....who sacrifice for their families...who have been carrying the weight as Band employees...and volunteers...isn't it time that these Band members receive a little economic justice of their own?

We want to give people a chance to fulfill their potential. We want to raise people's expectations and self confidence...

by giving them the tools to help themselves. We need government to become more efficient, and we need the working Band members to benefit from the savings of reducing Band government.

That is my plan for Economic Justice. We will work closely with the Band Assembly to try to move this forward.

Conclusion

We may feel angry, but we will always carry ourselves with dignity. It is our duty to live in a way that honors their sacrifices.

For years...we only knew injustice: From the theft of our land, to boarding schools, to a county run by people driven by resentment. But we have survived!

In our hearts and in our traditions, we seek justice to restore the circle of life. We seek justice to restore peace and harmony to the community...and to maintain the integrity of all. These are our ways — passed down from our ancestors.

For a thousand winters, days were spent in the outdoors. Children contributed to the survival of the group, which helped them to feel important and built their confidence. Adults looked for learning opportunities for kids whenever they could, and daily life included lessons in how to be a better person.

Elders in the community paid attention to kids, guiding them to find their true path as a useful member of the community. Elders were honored and young people had a clear vision of how to find their role in the Band.

Neither children nor Elders would feel lonely or confused, because they were part of a family and community that spent time together. They cared for one another. They knew that the survival of the individual was connected to the survival of the whole Band.

A Band, a clan, or an extended family, even if they were imperfect, served as a source of love for their members. Life was hard, but they needed each other to survive — and they survived and thrived. Their traditions, their language, their spiritualty and their customs...were passed on to us.

In the summer, the Anishinabe gathered together in bands of 400 or 500 people. The frames of their wigwams were arranged in a circle with an open space in the center. No one owned the frames...they belonged to everyone. When a family

arrived at a summer village, they would choose a frame that was available. They wrapped a covering of hide around it. Then they covered the hide with bark. That was their home for the summer

The circle was important in the life of our people, and the idea of the circle is the same for many tribes. Black Elk talked about the way an Indian looks at life.

He said: "Everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the power of the world always works in circles, and everything tries to be round. In the old days when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation, and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people flourished."

As Anishinabe, the circle symbolized who we were, how we took care of each other and what we believed in. We lived in the circle of life. Our Band justice system is based on restoring the circle of peace and harmony to our people.

When we are free to exercise our own traditions and our own form of governance and justice, when we embrace our traditions, we can truly restore the circle of peace and harmony to our people.

But as we seek that freedom, we must protect our way of life.

We are a peaceful people. We do not seek conflict. Even when the very existence of our Band is threatened, we will be peaceful....but we will use the laws of this Nation to fight and we will always win.

We will always rebel against oppression and ignorance.

We will protect our heritage as Anishinabe! We will preserve our language, our culture and our traditions! And we will emerge out of these struggles, preserving our future for our children as Anishinabe not just for 7 generations, but forever!

In a hundred years, those who seek to disrupt our way of life will be gone. But the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band will still be here. With the strength of our culture and our traditions...with the love for our Elders and our children...we will always persevere.

We always have, and we always will! Miigwech!!







Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu's Address



Good morning and welcome! I am Carolyn Beaulieu. As the Speaker of the Band Assembly, it is my duty under the Mille Lacs Band Statutes to Call the 17th Band Assembly 1st Session to Order, and ask that the Clerk conduct roll call. (Roll call.)

I'd like to take this opportunity to pass on information important for all of us to know as Mille Lacs Band members.

For the last three decades, the Mille Lacs Band has operated as a Separation of Powers form of government. While we are still under the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, (which I will refer to as the MCT moving forward) the Mille Lacs Band decided to write its own laws and establish its own form of government — unique from any other tribal government.

Under the MCT Constitution, that was established under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and approved in 1936, all six Bands have a Chairman, a Secretary-Treasurer and three representatives. At Mille Lacs, we call the Chairperson the Chief Executive and we call the Secretary-Treasurer the Speaker of the Band Assembly. Chief Executive Benjamin and I represent the Mille Lacs Band at the Tribal Executive Committee.

Under the MCT Constitution, the six Bands of the MCT are together for three principle reasons.

First, we write an election ordinance for all six Bands. Second, we approve membership decisions of the Bands.

Third, we hold trust lands in common. The MCT also collectively passes resolutions that impact all of the Bands and at times, national Indian policy. The remaining governing power remains with each of the Bands.

As you know, 2016 is an election year, and we want you to be well informed of what's going on. Please know that election information is available as it comes in on the legislative website and legislative bulletin board at the government center and community centers. I encourage all enrolled MCT members to get involved in their elections.

Today, Band Assembly writes laws and appropriates funds for programs and services; the Executive Branch implements the laws and administers the programs and services funded by the appropriations; and the Judicial branch adjudicates disputes and hears cases.

I would like to take a moment to introduce our staff (please hold your applause until the end):

First, Shelly Day, Office Manager;
Danielle Smith, Legislative Coordinator;
Linda Quaderer, Legislative Office Assistant;
Kim Kegg, Legislative Librarian;
Nancy Wood, Legislative Receptionist;
Stacey Thunder, Legislative Counsel;
Caryn Day, Communications Liaison
Darcie Big Bear, Band Assembly Clerk/Parliamentarian.
I also want to introduce the District Employees:

For District I, Bille Jo Sarcia, Megan Ballinger, Semira

Kimpson; For District II Raina Killspotted, and District II-A Chilah Brown; For District III Monica Benjamin, and the Deputy Registrar for the Department of Motor Vehicles is Deanna Sam. Lastly, the Commissioner of Finance Adam Valdez.

The Commissioner of Finance oversees the Office of Management and Budget and plays a key role in advising Band Assembly on finances and other matters that impact the Band government. The Office of Management and Budget provides the financial services to the tribal government and its members.

To date since I started my role as speaker of the Assembly, the current Band Assembly has had 129 Band Assembly meetings, passed 84 Bills and 160 resolutions (this includes joint resolutions that require concurrence of the Chief Executive), besides those main documents, our other day-to-day work includes:

- Reviewing Commissioners Orders
- Reviewing Solicitors Opinions
- Ratifying commissioners, judges, and board members
- Writing Statutes and amendments to existing laws
- Reviewing and approving Contracts
- Conducting Appropriation hearings
- Approving Budget Revisions
- Approving Memorandums of Understanding or Agreements
- Reviewing and approving Land Leases
- Reviewing and approving Grant Applications
- Overseeing Investments

In general, the Band Assembly attempts to work with the Chief Executive and all of the Band's Commissioners on the effective and efficient running of the Band government.

For Band Assembly, we have several goals for 2016, and I'd like to share just some of those:

- Continued development of legislative website we want to give you the best information as quickly as
- Continued development of the legislative library. We went through minor office space renovations and hiring of staff, and we hope to have a fully functional library by the end of the year.
- Review and revise the Revenue Allocation Plan. Under Federal law, this is the plan as to how casino funds are spent. Our needs have changed over the years, and we need to make adjustments in this area. It ultimately gets approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. On this matter, we will meet with the Chief Executive and the Commissioners to discuss spending and we will share these discussions with the community before implementing any changes.
- Consult Legislative District Committees to assist with statute revisions. We want to involve Band members in writing and revising our statutes. We need your help in revising a number of Statutes that are not limited to but include Titles 3 & 4, the Legislative and Executive Branches. Under Band law revising these laws requires public comments prior to changes.

I asked the district representatives what information they

would like to pass on here today:

For District I, Representative Blake has been working hard and has been in support of many appropriations.

Notably, Eddy's Resort and the Mpls. – St. Paul Hotels. These investments will ensure diversity in our revenues and are great assets for the Band. The Budget Host is an appropriation that was well worth supporting as it assists our Band members in District I with a helping hand.

Earlier this past year, Representative Blake sponsored a Bill to begin the infrastructure of the Sher Property development, which will become an addition to our community of over 90 homes with sites for a new Community Center and Clinic. Before the work began on the Sher Property, Representative Blake worked along with Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin to ensure that proper protocol was followed with the setting of a dish and asking the Manidoo's blessings and letting the spirits know of our intentions to build homes for our people there.

New job positions were created at the community center and Representative Blake is working towards adding more to enhance community activities such as open gym.

Jobs are also being developed for the Cultural Grounds in District I

Representative Blake is invaluable to this Band Assembly for her guidance, experience, and strong leadership qualities.

For District II, their new powwow was a success, and we will have a permanent infrastructure ready by this summer's annual powwow. We also continue to pursue economic development opportunities in District II.

For District III, we are in the planning of a new Hinckley Community Center and recently approved the expansion of the Rutledge Immersion Grounds.

As I said, in addition to heading the legislative branch, under the MCT Constitution, I am still the Band's Secretary-Treasurer. In that role:

- It is my duty to ensure that Band funds are protected and they are invested well.
- Consult regularly with the Commissioner of Finance to ensure our fiscal house is in order.
- When it comes to investing its money, the Band follows the strictest protocols and procedures. Our investors adhere to a Mille Lacs Band approved investment policy.
- In all matters regarding the Band funds, Band Assembly and the Commissioner of Finance hold ourselves to the highest standards when making decisions.
- It's your money, we want to keep it safe and productive for you, your children and grandchildren.

I do want to end on this note: The Band Assembly is here to serve the People of the Band. It is our honor to serve your interest. Writing good laws that reflect the Band traditions and values is a most important job! Ensuring that the funds of the Band are handled with the utmost caution and great care is of paramount importance to us! To me — our job as a government is to find the best way to serve the Band members. And I am honored and very grateful to have the opportunity to serve the Band. Miigwech!!







2016 State of the Judiciary

Rayna Churchill

Honorable Chief Executive, principled members of the Band Assembly, my fellow Mille Lacs Band Members, employees and guests, welcome to the 2016 State of the Band Address. It is my honor to provide you with the State of the Judiciary Address as prescribed by the Band Statutes.

I currently serve as the Chief Justice. I also serve as the Appellate Justice for District III. The Honorable Clarence Boyd serves as the Appellate Justice for District I and the Honorable Brenda Moose serves as the Appellate Justice for District II. If you are in the audience, please stand and be recognized. Thank you!

This year I am happy to introduce the Honorable David Christensen as the District Court Judge. Judge Christensen is a familiar face to many because he previously served in the Band's Solicitor General's Office and Legislative Office in the 1990s. Please stand and be recognized. Judge Christensen brings a wealth of legal knowledge and expertise to the Tribal Court, which will assist him in handling cases that come before the District Court. During his eleven months in office, he has been working hard to overcome the backlog of cases, which I can say were plenty. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

As indicated in 2015, the Court's goal is to complete our strategic planning and needs assessment in conjunction with Family Services, Band Member Legal Aid and the Peacemaking program. We have taken the liberty to place at each table setting a survey and request that each Band member take the time to complete the survey prior to the conclusion of the State of the Band Address. Your opinions are extremely valuable and essential in assisting us in the creation of a five-year plan for the three aforementioned departments and Tribal Court. Please leave the completed survey at your table, and a staff member will pick it up. Our goal is to complete this process by the end of the year. Upon completion, we will provide you with the goals and objectives in the Band newsletter and on the website.

An objective outlined in our 2012 grant allowed for the courts to implement a Peacemaking program for family law cases. The Peacemaker, Laurie Vilas (please rise), has been making great strides in assisting families via the Peacemaking circle. Her role is to help settle disputes as a neutral third party by using Ojibwe values as a foundation within the circle process. This year the peacemaker had 60 cases, of which 15 have been resolved, 39 cases are still in the Peacemaking process, 2 cases were resolved on their own and 4 are stalled. Many of the cases were referred to her by Tribal Court, Family Services

Social Workers or at the request of the County to assist in resolving issues with Band member parents, grandparents and other family members. Thank you, Laurie, for your hard work this past year.

Another objective is to improve security throughout the courtroom and court administration area. Court administration will be creating a team to review safety issues, which will include members from Tribal Police, Public Safety, and the Solicitor General's Office, among others.

In 2016, Judge Christensen would like to review existing court rules and modify those to include Rules of Evidence, Rules of Procedure and Rules for Juvenile Procedures. He will be requesting the assistance of the Solicitor General's Office and Band Member Legal Aid.

The final goal for 2016 is to review the use of the Panel of Elders as stated in Mille Lacs Band Statutes.

In 2015, 1,395 cases were filed in Tribal Court. Of those cases:

- 213 were child support;
- 70 were general civil;
- 39 petitions for Orders of Protection were filed, which include domestic abuse and harassment. Nine cases were domestic abuse and the remaining cases were harassment. Of the harassment cases, seven were filed which indicated that grandchildren were stealing from their elderly grandparents. Though seven is not a large number, there may be more unreported cases because others are not coming forward.
- In Family law, cases totaled 184, which is an increase of 60% from last year. The Family Law cases consist of Children in need of Protective Services, Guardianship, Custody, Visitation, Adoption, Divorce, Paternity, and Name Changes.

During 2015, 69 cases were filed for children in need of protective services, 29 of those cases were for educational neglect and 40 were for other forms of abuse or neglect within the home. Of the 40 cases, 88 children were removed from their homes. However, 23 children were reunited with their parents who worked a case plan with family services. Eight of the 40 cases stemmed from prenatal exposure, which is a reduction from last year. Although the numbers show a decline in prenatal exposure, we, the Band, still need to address all of the reasons why children are removed. We need to ask ourselves, as Anishinaabe, how are we going to resolve this issue so the children's lives are no longer second, third or at the bottom of our priorities? The well being of children is of

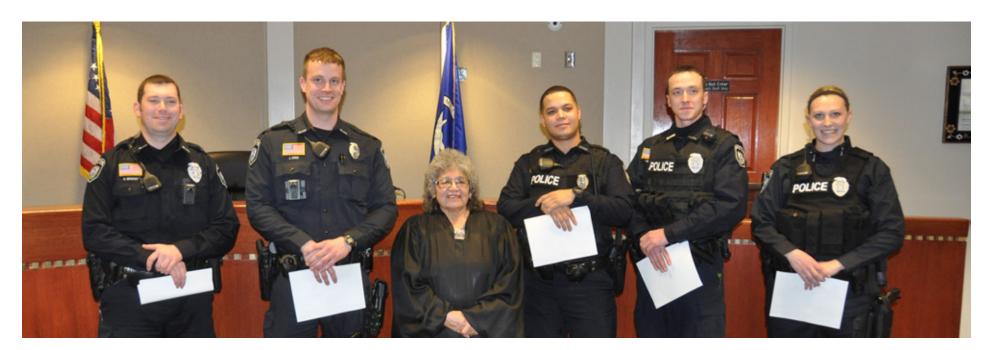


the utmost importance to the continued existence of our Anishinaabe way of life.

As indicated earlier, truancy and chronic absenteeism from school has resulted in 29 educational neglect cases being filed since April 2015. Six of those cases are from the present school year. The youngest child in these cases is seven years old and the oldest child has been 15, due to statutory limits. In two separate cases, an elementary student had 56 unexcused absences and a high school student had 57. Those numbers do not include the excused absences for each child. In reviewing the amount of days in a school year, it is accurate to say that in these two examples, the children missed a quarter of the school year. The court has involved the Healing Circle, led by KC Paulson and Kim Sam, to assist in resolving truancy and chronic absenteeism issues and will require the families to work with them. I repeat again, we need to concentrate on our Mille Lacs Band children. Without adequate education, how can they live a good life or function in a modern, technological

In closing, I'd like to mention that Mille Lacs Band Statutes reference the judicial philosophy, which in a nutshell means the Tribal Court strives to provide peace and harmony amongst the Band to ensure that the circle of life be restored so that the community can continue to grow and prosper. By reviewing our methods of handling truancy, drug and alcohol issues, elder abuse and neglect of our children, the court can aid in resolving those problems, but the court needs the support of the community and elected officials. You can show your support by completing the community survey. This will aid the court in achieving its ultimate goal, which is to provide a forum where litigants can resolve disputes in a fair and timely manner.

Thank you for attending the 2016 State of the Band Address.



New Officers Take Oath of Office

Five new Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers — Brian Murphy, Jeff Dorr, Julian Walker, Dusty Burton and Ashley Stavish — were sworn in on Thursday, Jan. 7, by Judge Brenda Moose.

Department of Justice Approves Concurrent Jurisdiction

Second assumption of federal jurisdiction under historic tribal law and order act

The Department of Justice has granted a request by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the United States to assume concurrent criminal jurisdiction on the tribe's reservation under the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act.

At her State of the Band Address on Jan. 12, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin thanked federal officials and said the decision means criminals can be prosecuted in federal court. "We need this message to go out to drug dealers, gang members and anyone intent on committing violent crimes on our lands: We will catch you, and when we do, you are going to Leavenworth, not Stillwater, and you are not getting out for a very, very long time. Tell the dealers, 'If you don't want to go to federal prison, get off our lands now, and stay out.'"

The Band applied for concurrent jurisdiction on the 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation in 2013. lace sentence with: Mille Lacs County opposed the application, saying it was not necessary and that the 1855 Reservation was disestablished and no longer exists.

The Department of Justice rejected those arguments, and Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates announced the decision in a Jan. 12 news release.

The decision was the second assumption of jurisdiction granted by the Department of Justice under the landmark

Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA), which gave the department discretion to accept concurrent federal jurisdiction to prosecute violations of the General Crimes Act and the Major Crimes Act within areas of Indian country that are also subject to state criminal jurisdiction under Public Law 280. Public Law 280 is the 1953 law that mandated the transfer of federal law enforcement jurisdiction for certain tribes to six states, including Minnesota. The first assumption of federal jurisdiction took place on Minnesota's White Earth Reservation in March 2013.

The decision will take effect on Jan. 1, 2017. Tribal, state and county prosecutors and law enforcement agencies will also continue to have criminal jurisdiction on the reservation.

"We believe this decision — made after a careful review of the tribe's application and the facts on the ground — will strengthen public safety and the criminal justice system serving the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," said Deputy Attorney General Yates. "This is another step forward in the Justice Department's commitment to serve and protect American Indian and Alaska Native communities, to deal with them on a government-to-government basis and to fulfill the historic promise of the Tribal Law and Order Act. Strong law enforcement partnerships with the Tribe, as well as state and local counterparts, will be essential to the success of this effort."

"We want to make certain that the outcome of this decision will benefit the residents of the Mille Lacs Band and improve the safety of the community," said U.S. Attorney Andrew M. Luger of the District of Minnesota. "As we work towards full implementation, we will work to strengthen the bonds between our tribal and local partners in pursuit of our common goal of providing a safe environment where this community can thrive."

The Department of Justice already has jurisdiction to prosecute certain crimes, such as drug trafficking, wherever they occur in the United States — including on the Mille Lacs Reservation. The change announced today will expand this existing jurisdiction to allow federal prosecution of major crimes such as murder, rape, felony assault and felony child abuse.

The decision followed careful consideration of the request and information provided by the Mille Lacs Band Tribal government, as well as by the Justice Department's Office of Tribal Justice, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. District Court, state and local law enforcement partners and other sources.

Chief Executive, District I Representative up for Reelection

Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu announced on Jan. 15 that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will hold a Regular Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation June 14, with an April 5 primary if necessary. Positions to be filled are Chairperson (Chief Executive) and Committee person District I (District I Representative). Both are four-year terms.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin also issued a Writ of Election Jan. 15 announcing that elections for Nay Ah Shing School Board will also be held on June 14, with an April 5 primary if necessary.

Open school board positions are Chair, District I member and District II member.

The filing period for open seats was Jan. 19 through 4:30 p.m. Jan. 28. For a list of those who have filed, the official MCT announcement, and the Chief Executive's Writ of Election, see **millelacsband.com** and **millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com**. Watch the websites, Facebook and next month's *lnaajimowin* for information on candidate forums.

ELECTION CALENDAR

2015 – 2016 Regular Election

- December 30, 2015: Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.
- January 11, 2016: Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.
- January 15: Election Announcement
- **January 19**: 8 a.m. Opening of period for filing for office.
- **January 28**: Close of filing period
- February 5: Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge (For certification of candidate)
- February 12: Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC.
- February 17: Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.
- February 18: Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by 4:30 p.m.
- **February 18**: Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.
- February 18: Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.
- **February 19**: Decision of certification or non-certification or within 48 hrs. of appeal.
- February 22: Notice of Primary Election and Posting.
- February 26: TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.
- **April 1**: Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.
- April 5: Primary (Polling places open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.)
- April 6: General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results. (Prior to 8 p.m.)
- April 7: General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.
- April 8: Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5 p.m.)
- April 12: 4:30 p.m. Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).
- April 13: (Results, if allowed or11th or12th if earlier request): Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
- April 22: Deadline for Decision on Contest
- April 25 (or within 3 days of decision on Contest): 4:30 p.m. Deadline for Appeal to

- Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
- April 28 (or with 3 days upon receipt of Notice to Appeal): Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
- May 2 (hearing within 7 days notice of appeal). Last Day for Hearing on Appeal
- May 12 (10 days from hearing on appeal): Last Day for Decision on Appeal
- May 13: Notice of General Election
- **May 13**: TEC provides ballots for General Election.
- **June 14**: General Election (Polling Places open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.)
- June 15: General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election.
 Prior to 8 p.m.
- June 16: General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.
- June 17: Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5 p.m.)
- June 21: 4:30 p.m. Deadline for Notice of Contest. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)
- June 22 (or 20, 21, if request for Recount is filed before deadline): Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
- July 1st: Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.
- July 5th (or within 3 days of decision on Contest): 4:30 p.m. Deadline for appeal to
 Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
 and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
- July 8 (or within 3 days upon receipt of Notice to Appeal): Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
- July 12 (hearing within 7 days notice of appeal). Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.
- July 12: Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals.
- July 22 (or Ten days from Hearing on Appeal): Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.
- Day following Decision of Appeal: Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

Integrated Food Program Focuses on Health, Jobs, Sovereignty

A new initiative in all three Mille Lacs Band districts will bring together a broad array of gardening, farming and commercial activities to provide Band members with healthy food, meaningful jobs and a stronger economy.

The Mille Lacs Band Integrated Food Systems Program will be a partnership between the Band's programs that have a food component, and our communities to produce healthy foods for Band members to eat, share and sell.

The Band's Administration Department is working with the Honor The Earth Organization to identify best practices, measure community interest and develop logical phasing of the project.

Commissioner of Administration Catherine Colsrud has been working on food sovereignty since she took her position in 2014, but she points out that Band members in all three districts have led the way for years by developing food projects and encouraging others to make food health a priority.

Years ago, for example, Leonard Sam established gardens at the old Sodbusters property in District I, when he was working for the DNR. Other long-time visionaries, Catherine says, are Dale Greene in District II, and Ed St. John, Harry Davis and Trisha Moose in District III.

Rayna Churchill has also been a promoter of traditional foods and healthy lifestyles, and she's pleased that the project is moving forward. "We are aware that Native Americans suffer from the worst overall health disparities of any ethnic/racial group in the United States," says Rayna. "The solution to the problems is the restoration of more traditional, natural, healthy foods in addition to other strategies leading the way to improving the overall nutritional health of all Americans, and not just the people of Indian Country."

In recent years, projects have sprouted up through the efforts of Nay Ah Shing schools Nutrition Services Coordinator Deb Foye, Emergency Services Greenhouse Technician Kevin Pawlitschek and several others. Gardens and greenhouses are in place at Sodbusters, the powwow grounds in District I, and the ALUs in Districts I and II. In District III, Pine Grove Academy is planning to start a garden, and Band employees have been experimenting with "aquaponics" — a combination of "aquaculture" (growing fish) and "hydroponics" (growing vegetables in water).

Individual Band members are already raising livestock, growing apple trees, harvesting fish, making maple syrup and processing wild rice.

"Our communities have great ideas, and our Band members are very passionate about improving our collective lives," said Catherine. "We know what we want, we know we have the support, and we know we have the interest from the communi-

ty, but what we don't have is the time investment this project deserves, to gather the information from all the districts and interested community members into one cohesive, logical plan, so we can start growing this year."

Winona LaDuke, who is managing the project for Honor the Earth, has been visiting all three districts to gather and share ideas (see story below).

For Catherine, the project has potential to address a number of different problems in the Mille Lacs Band community: reentry of incarcerated people into the community; unemployment among members who can't work at the casinos and those who desire to work outside instead of doing office work; a local economy in need of diversification; and health problems like diabetes and heart disease due to lack of access to affordable, fresh and healthy food.

"Through this project, we can put people to work and give access to healthy food to those want it," Catherine said. "And our elders who can't garden anymore will benefit from it, our school children can learn the importance of taking care of the land, and those small, independent producers will have increased access to established distribution systems. Growers need to have an avenue to sell their products, and one part of this integrated food system project will increase this opportunity."

Dale Greene is a District II elder who is excited about the project. He remembers the days when every family grew a "victory garden" during World War II. Everyone canned their excess, from tomatoes to venison — even bullheads.

Dale gardened most of his life but finds it difficult now. "I used to have a big garden back here," he said. "I had corn and beans, tomatoes, onions, carrots. I'd try different things. Everybody likes to eat their own vegetables, but some of us can't get out and weed anymore."

Dale was in the food business for many years as a wild rice processor and dealer. To him, here's nothing better than healthy traditional foods, including fresh produce from the garden. "I'd like to see some of that real corn come back, the organic corn seeds," Dale said.

He would also like the food sovereignty project to revive social relationships among members, as they work together to grow food and provide for those in need.

Dale would like the Band government to require all employees to spend one day per month in community service. Some of those hours could be spent helping elders with their gardens.

"I'd like to see it as a community thing," he said. "If I have too many carrots, I'll give some to somebody less fortunate. It doesn't have to be an Indian either. I can give them to my neighbor down the street."

"Through this project, we can put people to work and give access to healthy food to those want it. And our elders who can't garden anymore will benefit from it, our school children can learn the importance of taking care of the land, and those small, independent producers will have increased access to established distribution systems."

— Catherine Colsrud



Indigenous varieties of corn.

Traditional Foods Improve Health, Environment, Economy

By Bradley Harrington



"I don't think we can call ourselves sovereign if we can't feed ourselves."

- Paul 'Sugarbear' Smith, Oneida

Winona Laduke of Honor the Earth has been visiting each district to share and gather ideas for the Mille Lacs Band Integrated Food Systems Program. She talks about the environmental, financial and health-related factors to what we put inside our bodies.

Traditional food production is better for the environment because it absorbs and stores carbon from the air. Financially, it can save millions per community. She did a study in White Earth and determined that close to \$7 million was being spent in the nearby community with most of it spent on unhealthy foods.

Up until about a hundred years ago, most Ojibwe were self-sufficient in the ability to grow and gather their own food. In the 1840's, the Ojibwe were

the farmers that sold food to non-native traders. She talked about many varieties of corn the Ojibwe people grew.

Being the northern most corn producers, the Ojibwe grew corn 100 miles past Winnipeg. She passed around a basket that had a few of the varieties of corn that she grows. She is offering assistance in the creation of household and community gardens. Mille Lacs has major potential in being food producers not only for the Ojibwe people but across the nation.

Part-time, contract jobs will be available in each district for this program through "Honor The Earth". If you are interested in this program, like the Facebook page "MLBO Farming Project." More information can be found at **anishinaabefoodsovereignty.com/millelacs/**



Vince Merrill, center, with his Minisinaakwaang language apprentices. Back: Branden Sargent and Anthony Buckanaga. Front: Olivia Killspotted and Misty Morrow.

Youngest Native Speaker Inspires Youth

Brett Larson Staff writer/Photographer

Vince Merrill may be the youngest native speaker of Ojibwe in the state of Minnesota, and now he's passing that knowledge on to a new generation by overseeing Ojibwe Language Apprentices at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in District II.

Vince is 50 years old, but his memories of early childhood sound like those of someone much older. He lived with his grandparents, Frank and Maggie Misquadace, in East Lake, and when it was time to go to school, he didn't speak a word of English. The teachers were at a loss.

"They didn't know what to do with me," Vince recalls, "so they sent me home. I didn't know what was going on. I was enjoying it."

He went to live with his mother in Minneapolis and attended a Catholic school, but they were no better equipped to deal with Vince, so he ended up getting in a lot of trouble. "Because we lived so close, when one of them would punish me, I'd run away and hide in the garage and wait until someone came home," Vince says.

Vince begged his mom to let him come back to East Lake, and the following fall he started kindergarten again. He was confused because the kids he had started school with a year earlier were now in a different grade. "It always bothered me, so I'd play with the older kids who remembered me. It was a real bizarre experience."

Vince got help from other bilingual East Lake residents like Bernice Parks. He eventually learned enough English to get along, but school remained difficult.

"I don't think I really started getting it until third grade," he says. "I think they just passed me along because what else could they do?"

Learning English was not enough to insulate him from the realities of rural Minnesota life, however. "In seventh or eighth grade I was formally introduced to bigotry," Vince says. "I was dating one of the local girls, and we both took a lot of heat. I didn't think society could be so cruel."

Vince eventually joined the Army and spent time away from

home. During those years he lost some of his connection with the language and culture, but it came back when he returned home and began speaking on behalf of the community and the drum

Vince is a Drumkeeper on a drum that was first given to Misquadace, his grandfather's father. Misquadace became a chief after the assassination of Hole-in-the-Day. When Vince's grandfather died, Vince became a Drumkeeper at a young age — only the third in line dating back to Misquadace.

In the 1990s, Vince lived in District I and was involved in various language teaching roles. His passion for teaching and his concern about the loss of the language have grown throughout the years.

Vince is now employed at Minisinaakwaang overseeing the school's language apprentices — four young people who are committed to becoming language teachers. "With the rapid decline of the language, we need these young people to step up and do this," Vince says.

The four apprentices — Anthony Buckanaga, Olivia Kill-spotted, Branden Sargent and Misty Morrow — will rotate between classrooms and lessons with Vince.

Vince hopes to bring a new generation of speakers to the point where they can speak spontaneously rather than relying on rehearsed speeches.

"My greatest fear is that there won't be anybody to do any of the language speaking for ceremonial purposes. What it boils down to is that it's all situational. It's not memorizing a speech. That's my greatest fear: that we will lose contact with the ways we were given to conduct ourselves. Prior to gaming we were all very connected to these ways because that's how we were able to function in response to society's growing expectation for Native Americans to be more like them. At that time there were lots of speakers to perform these things, and now we're down to a handful. What good is having a pile of money if we can't do anything for our people and give them back their spirituality and their language?"

I am learning Ojibwe:

Nibiminizha'aan iw Ojibwemowin

He/she is learning Ojibwe:

Obiminizha'aan iw Ojibwemowin

You are learning Ojibwe:

Gibiminizha'aan iw Ojibwemowin I speak Ojibwe: Nindoojibwem Let's speak Ojibwe: Ojibwemodaa

February News Briefs

Sandpiper secrets: According to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (Jan. 5), a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staffer sent emails expressing opposition to the Sandpiper pipeline, in spite of Gov. Mark Dayton's support of the proposed pipeline. Rep. Pat Garofalo, R-Farmington, claimed that the emails betray a secret bias against the project in the governor's office. The governor has initiated an investigation to determine if the emails were inappropriate and what should be done

Walleye at the Roundtable: The Mille Lacs walleye population was a hot topic at the Jan. 15 Fishing Roundtable hosted by the Minnesota DNR. Fishery expert Jim Martin was brought in by the DNR to examine the Mille Lacs "situation" from an outsider's perspective.

Ricing arrests: Charges have been filed against two Mille Lacs Band members, Harvey GoodSky Jr. and Morningstar Shabaiash, for ricing without a permit on Gull Lake last summer. According to the *Duluth News Tribune*, they were among several treaty rights activists involved in a protest to claim gathering rights throughout territories ceded in the Treaty of 1855.

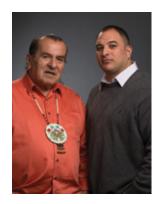
White Earth shakeup. Native News Online reported on Jan. 20 that White Earth Chairwoman Erma Vizenor's resignation had been accepted by a 3-0 vote of the tribal council. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Tribal Executive Committee censured Vizenor in December after she attempted to implement a new constitution. As a member of the MCT, White Earth is bound by the MCT Constitution. Vizenor faced a potential removal by the tribal council, but said earlier she would run again if removed.

A few good signs: White Earth is seeking to install highway signs in Ojibwe along Becker County roads. Cultural Coordinator Merlin Deegan appeared before the Becker County Board to explain that the signs, which would be paid for by a grant, could help young people to be exposed to culture in their day-to-day lives, according to the *Duluth News Tribune*. When Deegan asked that the Ojibwe words be above the English on the signs, however, he met with opposition from county commissioners.

Advisory Committee gets legal advice: The Minnesota DNR's Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee met on Jan. 11 at Izatys to discuss management of the lake and the decline in walleyes. On hand was DNR Deputy General Counsel David Iverson, who told the committee about the legal framework that determines harvest limits, according to the Brainerd Dispatch. Some advisory committee members — primarily Mille Lacs area businesses and fishing groups — want public access to the state-tribal Fisheries Technical Committee meetings. Some members said the public opposes tribal gill netting; others said they want the state to renegotiate co-management with the tribes. The DNR repeated that gill netting is not the cause of a decline in the walleye population. Government Affairs Director Jamie Edwards represents the Band on the committee.

Ontario Chippewa fight Enbridge, too, eh?

The Thames River First Nation of Ontario is taking Enbridge Inc. to court over the Line 9 pipeline, according to the *Huffington Post*. The first nation says it wasn't properly consulted (sounds familiar) when Enbridge sought permission to expand and reverse the flow of oil.





OpwaaganagCeremonial Pipes

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Mii dash noongom ani-dazhimagwaa ingiw opwaaganag gaa-miinigoowiziyangig anishinaabewiyang ge-ni-apenimoyangig giniigaaniiminaang.

Today I am going to talk about the ceremonial pipes that we were given as a people to rely on for our support in our future.

Ishke inendaagoziyan da-miinigoowiziyan a'aw opwaagan ge-aabaji'ad, mii-go gomaapii da-miinigoowiziyan. Ishke aanind a'aw Anishinaabe niwaabamaa adaawed inow opwaaganan waa-aabaji'aajin. Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa daa-izhichigesiin a'aw Anishinaabe. Inendaagoziyan a'aw opwaagan da-ayaawad, mii-go damiinigoowiziyamban. Giga-miinigoog ingiw Manidoog. Gaawiin memwech gidaa-omichi-gagwedwesiin da-miinigooyan gaye.

If it is meant for you to have a ceremonial pipe, at some point the Manidoog will provide one for you. I see some of our Anishinaabe purchasing the pipes that they want to use. Anishinaabe should not do this. If it is meant for you to have a pipe, you will receive one. The Manidoog will give you one. You do not necessarily go and ask for one either.

Azhigwa dash oshki-miinigoowiziyan a'aw opwaagan, booch a'aw asemaa miinawaa wiisiniwin gidaa-atamawaag ingiw Manidoog dabwaa-aabaji'ad a'aw opwaagan. Ishke dash a'aw opwaagan, niizhiwag ingiw Manidoog gaanakodangig da-ni-aabajichigaazowaad ge-onjikaad dash a'aw opwaagan. Mii dash a'aw Gimishoomisinaan, mii a'aw bezhig a'aw Manidoo gaa-nakodang wiinaadamaaged o'ow akeyaa. Mii dash imaa asiniiwid a'aw opwaagan, mii dash a'aw Gimishoomisinaan ezhiwiinind.

Once you are given a new pipe, you need to put tobacco and food for the Manidoog before you use the pipe. When it comes to the pipe there are two Manidoog that agreed to come together in this way and to form the pipe as we know it. One of the Manidoo that agreed to help this was our Grandfather Rock. That is the stone part of the pipe, his name is Gimishoomisinaan.

Mii dash awedi bezhig a'aw Manidoo gaa-nakodang gaye wii-naadamaaged o'ow akeyaa, mii dash a'aw Mitigwaabiiwinini ezhiwiinjigaazod. Mii i'iw okij gii-ozhichigaadeg, mii imaa gaa-ondinigaadeg imaa mitigoong.

The other Manidoo that agreed to help in this way is Mitigwaabiiwinini. That is where the pipe stem is made from, it comes from the tree.

Azhigwa dash dabwaa-aabaji'ad gidoopwaagan, asemaan gidaa-o-ininamawaa a'aw Anishinaabe netaa-apagizomaaged inow asemaan zagaswe'idid a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash a'aw ge-bi-gaagiigidod, weweni da-apagizondamawaad inow Manidoon enabinid inow gidasemaaman naa i'iw giwiisiniwin. Mii imaa naaniigaan ge-ni-apagizondamawind gidasemaam naa gaye giwiisiniwin ingiw niizh Manidoog gaanakodangig wii-maamawinikeniwaad imaa dash gaa-onjikaad a'aw opwaagan.

Before you use your pipe, you should take tobacco over to someone who knows how to talk at Anishinaabe ceremonies. That person can come talk and offer up your tobacco and food to where those Manidoog sit. The first place your tobacco and food is sent to is to those two Manidoog that agreed to come together to form the pipe.

Mii gaye imaa nanaandomindwaa ingiw Manidoog da-wenda-mashkawaamagadinig imaa ge-onjikaamagadinig azhigwa ani-aabajichigaazod a'aw opwaagan. Miinawaa gaye mii a'aw ge-ni-naadamook giniigaaniiming da-ni-maminoseyan.

The Manidoog are asked to help making sure that the strength and power is there as the pipe is used. It is also asked that this is the pipe that will help you to live a good life in the future.

Ishke dash gaye wayeshkad a'aw Bwaan gaa-nagadenimag, mii a'aw opwaaganan gaamiizhid. Mii dash iwapii gaa-miizhid inow opwaaganan, geget nigii-kagwaadagitoo iwapii. Ningii-wenda-onzaamiikaanaaban i'iw minikwewin enigaa'igod a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash imaa gii-mikwendamaan gaa-onji-naadamaagoowizid gigeteanishinaabeminaan. Mii i'iw wiin gaa-izhichiged, mii-go apane endaso-giizhik gii-asemaakawaad inow Manidoon.

It was a Sioux friend that gave me my first pipe. At the time he gave me the pipe, I was going through a difficult time. I had been drinking heavily at the time. It was at that time that I remembered how the old Anishinaabe got their help. What the old Anishinaabe did was put their tobacco out everyday for the Manidoog.

Ingii-kotaan da-aabiinji'igoyaan i'iw minikwewin, mii dash imaa gii-inendamaan endaso-giizhik da-aabaji'ag a'aw indoopwaagan. Mii dash imaa endaso-gigizhebaawagak imaa aabita-diba'igan awashime gii-tazhitaayaan gii-mooshkina'ag a'aw indoopwaagan. Mii imaa bangii asemaa gii-mamag gii-ininamawagwaa bebezhig ingiw Manidoog weweni gii-kanoonagwaa biinish dash imaa gakina ingiw Manidoog gii-asemaakawagwaa, mii dash imaa gii-saka'wag indoopwaagan. Mii dash i'iw ginwenzh eni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe, mii-go iwidi eni-apiichitaad da-ni-asigishininid inow odasemaan enabinid inow Manidoon. Booch igo gomaapii oga-naadamaagoon inow Manidoon.

At the time I was afraid that the alcohol would get the best of me. So it was then that I decided to use my pipe on a daily basis. So what I did was every morning I sat there for a half-hour or more filling my pipe. What I did was take a pinch of tobacco and offer it to each of the Manidoog until I did that to all the Manidoog that I knew. It was then that I lit my pipe. As Anishinaabe does this on a continuous basis, his tobacco collects where those Manidoog sit. Eventually those Manidoog will help him.

Ishke dash i'iw akeyaa niin gaa-izhi-naadamaagoowiziyaan i'iwapii, ingii-odisigoog imaa nibawaajiganing ingiw Manidoog. Mii-go gaa-izhi-moozhitooyaan inigokwekamig i'iw zhawendaagoziwin gegigaabawiwaad ingiw Manidoog gaa-pi-naazikawijig, mii dash i'iw gaa-piingigeshkaamagak imaa nijichaagong. Mii dash i'iw gaa-miinonigoyaan.

The way I was helped by doing this, the Manidoog began to appear in my dreams. I could feel the compassion of those Manidoog stand with and I could feel that energy go into my spirit. It was that which straightened my life out.

Ishke dash i'iwapii gii-wenda-inigaawendamaan bimaadiziyaan. Ishke dash ingiw Manidoog gii-pi-naazikawiwaad imaa nibawaajiganing, mii imaa gii-moonendamaan zhawenimiwaad ingiw Manidoog. Mii igo awegwen a'aw Anishinaabe i'iw akeyaa eni-izhichiged, mii-go gaye wiin da-naadamaagoowizipan.

It was at that time that I was really pitiful. And when those Manidoog appeared in my dreams, it was then that I realized how much compassion they had for me. Any of our Anishinaabe who wants to do this will be helped in the same fashion.

Mii gaye gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan ani-aabaji'ag a'aw indoopwaagan, mii i'iw gaa-igooyaan, "Mii i'iw akeyaa ezhi-ganawenimad a'aw gidoopwaagan, mii i'iw akeyaa ge-ni-izhi-ganawendaman gibimaadiziwin." Ishke weweni doodawad, weweni gashkapinad, weweni biini'ad, miinawaa weweni nanaa'inad ani-giizhi-aabaji'ad a'aw gidoopwaagan, mii gaye gaawiin debinaak giga-ni-doodanziin i'iw gibimaadiziwin.

The teaching that I was given when I was first given my pipe, I was told, "The way you take care of your pipe, is the way you will lead your life." If you treat your pipe in a good way, take care in tying it up, doing a good job cleaning it, and putting it away in a good way once you are done using it, you will also do a thorough job in taking care of your life.

Mii gaye gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan da-ni-ganawaabandamaan aaniin ezhichigeyaan ani-biini'ag a'aw indoopwaagan. Weweni gidaa-doodaan i'iw akakanzhe. Gego imaa endazhi-apagiji-ziigwebinigeng gidaa-atoosiin i'iw akakanzhe. Mii-go izhi-bezhigod a'aw asemaa naa i'iw akakanzhe. Weweni dash gaye akakanzhe gidaa-doodaan.

I was also taught to be careful as I clean my pipe. You need to treat the ash respectfully. Do not throw it in the garbage. The tobacco and the ash are one in the same. So as a result you need to treat the ash respectfully.

A'aw nizigosiban Amikogaabawiikweban nigii-wiindamaag, baanimaa niiwing midewid a'aw Anishinaabe, mii owapii ge-ni-aabaji'aapan inow mekadewizinijin inow opwaaganan. Mii i'iw akeyaa nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawind. Mii gaye gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawid a'aw nizigosiban, mii imaa niiwing medewid, mii imaa niiwing achigaazonid inow asemaan ani-mooshkinachigaazonid inow odoopwaaganan. Mii dash gaye nising medewid, nising achigaazowan iniw asemaan ani-mooshkinachigaazonid dash odoopwaaganan. Mii-go aaniin minik medewid, mii iw minik dasing echigaazonid inow asemaan a'aw Anishinaabe.

My aunt Julie Shingobe had told me that it is not until Anishinaabe became fourth degree Mide that they are allowed to use a black pipe. Many of our Anishinaabe had been taught that same way. My aunt also taught me that that if you are fourth degree Mide your pipe will be filled with the fourth pinch of tobacco. Third degree Mide-person will take three pinches to fill their pipe. Whatever degree Midewiwin you are that is how many pinches it will take to your pipe.

Ayaapii-ko nibi-gagwejimigoo maajaa'iweyaan, "Daa-achigaazowan ina odoopwaaganan da-ni-maajiinaad a'aw eni-aanjikiid?" Ishke dash mii iw mikwendamaan a'aw Nizigozisiban gii-ishkwaa-ayaad gii-nandodamaaged da-ni-maajiinaad inow odoopwaaganan. Ishke gaye a'aw chi-mookomaan owapii gii-moonikaadang iniw anishinaabe-jiibegamigoon. Mii imaa gii-mikigaazowaad nebowa ingiw opwaaganag miinawaa wawaaj igo inow omidewayaanan. Ishke mii imaa gii-wiindamaagoowiziyang mewinzha a'aw Anishinaabe gii-na'inigaazod, mii imaa gii-achigaazonid inow odoopwaaganan miinawaa omidewayaanan.

Sometimes when I do funerals I am asked, "Can a pipe be buried with an Anishinaabe?" I remember when my aunt passed away; she had asked that she take her pipe with her. Also when the white man dug up a lot of the Anishinaabe graves, there were a lot of pipes and Mide-hides

found in those graves. It was there that we were told that a lot of our Anishinaabe of the past were buried with their pipes and their Mide-hides.

Ishke gaye babaamaadiziyaan iko ani-naadamaageyaan imaa Anishinaabe ani-asemaaked, mii-ko imaa wenda-ayaangwaamiziyaan gaanag a'aw indoopwaagan dabaazhiji-dakokaanaasig a'aw ikwe. Geget mashkawaadiziwag ingiw oshkiniigikweg azhigwa wii-ni-ikwewiwaad. Naa-go gaye biinish i'iw a'aw ikwe apii eni-izhiwebiziwaad ikwewag endaso-giizis. Ishke imaa baazhiji-dakokaanaawaad inow opwaaganan, mii-go imaa da-aatenimawind i'iw ezhi-mashkawaadizid a'aw opwaagan. Noongom nebowa ingiw ikwewag gaawiin ogikendanziinaawaa ezhi-mashkawaadiziwaad ikwewiwaad.

Also in my travels to help Anishinaabe in putting their tobacco, I am extremely careful in hiding my pipe making sure that one of our women does not step over it. Our young girls who are in the process of becoming women are very powerful. Our women are also very powerful at their time of the month. If these women were to step-over a pipe, they would wipeout the power that exists within that pipe. Many of our women do not know how powerful they are as women.



Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 1: The Alphabet

Aaniin, to begin the learning process of any language, you must learn the alphabet in which it is written. Although the letters are the same and some sounds are similar, overall pronunciation may be completely different.

In Ojibwe Language, there have been many alphabets created to be able to make this unwritten language a written one.

The alphabet that is growing in popularity amongst schools is the Double Vowel System. It takes letters from the English Alphabet and uses them in a manner that can accurately transcribe an Ojibwe Word.

So let's begin:

Double Vowel	Baraga	Phonetic	Syllabics	English
Wiisinin	Wissinnin	Wee-sin-in		Eat!

All the letters in the Double Vowel System will hold the same sound that it is assigned. Check back next month for our next lesson in Ojibwemowin.

This new feature contributed by Bradley Harrington, Melissa Boyd and John Benjamin provides beginner level Ojibwe language instruction to complement the higher-level instruction provided by Lee Staples and Chato Gonzalez each month.

Consonants

	Ojibwe Word	English	
В	Bakade = S/he is hungry	Bail	
Ch	Jaachaamo = S/he is sneezing	Cherry	
D	Daga = Please	Dog	
G	Gego = Don't	Good	
Н	Howah = Wow, Cool	Hail	
J	Jiibaakwe = S/he is cooking	Jail	
K	Ikwe = Woman	Kale	
М	Manoomin = Wild Rice	Mail	
N	Naanan = 5	Nail	
Р	Baapi = S/he is laughing	Pail	
S	Asab = a net	Snail	
Sh	Waashkobaagamig	Soda Pop	
Т	Tayaa = #%@%!!	Tail	
w	Waasa = far away	Whale	
Υ	Gwayak = Right	Yale	
Z	Zagime = Mosquito	Zoo	
Zh	Zhiishiib = Duck The "s" Measur		

Vowels

	Ojibwe Word	English	
а	Bakade = S/he is hungry	"uh" in What	
aa	Ataage = S/he is gambling	"aah" in Gone	
е	Minikwe = S/he is drinking	"ay" in Way	
i	Gisinaa = The weather is cold	"ih" in Hit	
ii	Wiidookaw = You help him.	"ee" in Bee	
0	Odaabaan = Car	"oh" in Toe	
00	Biidoon = You bring it.	"oo" in Moon	



Nay Ah Shing schools held their second quarter powwow on Friday, Jan. 15, at the Upper School. Students from the Pine Grove campus in Aazhoomog were also included.

Fifth Annual Mille Lacs Polar Bear Plunge

On Saturday, March 12, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will sponsor the fifth annual Mille Lacs Polar Bear Plunge on the shores near Eddy's Resort to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. So far, 82 individuals have registered to participate, as of January 11, 2016.

Our goal this year is to exceed the number of plungers from last year — that's more than 300 brave individuals! Are you ready for the challenge? Grab a friend, family member, or co-worker and register today.

At the plunge, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will provide changing facilities and warming tents for plungers as well as concessions and other entertainment for spectators.

Area law enforcement, fire departments, search and rescue teams, the Mille Lacs Band DNR and Grand Casino Mille Lacs staff will oversee the event.

If you would like to participate or donate to a team or individual, visit **plungemn.org** and choose the Mille Lacs plunge location. Participants need to raise a minimum of \$75 to plunge. Donations will be accepted on the day of the plunge, and anyone interested in participating can register on the day of the event at the registration table. Registration opens at 11 a.m. with the plunge following at 1 p.m.



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy February Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Laura Ann Ashcroft Maurice Wayne Benjamin Melanie Ann Benjamin Debra Jean Blake Sandra Lee Blake Judy Ann Carlson Ellen Marie Dakota Harry Richard Davis William Carl Erickson Eileen Frances Farah Nicole Anne Froemming Beverly Ann Graves Mary Louise Hoffer **Donald Ray Houle** Sharon Louise Howard Maggie Kegg Kurt Drew Keller Carolyn Dawn Lewis Wesley Dean Merrill Victoria Gina Mitchell Gilbert Wayne Moose Debra Lee Northrup Patricia Ann O'Brien William John O'Brien Robin Lou Oswaldson Rhonda Lynn Peet Alan Pindegayosh Lawrence Virgil Reynolds Ellen Marie Roth Bette Sam

Darlene Frances Sam Darrell Duane Sam Gladys Diane Sam James Allan Sam Pauline Marie Sam Kenneth Wayne [Mitchell] Shingobe Alvera Marie Smith Bennie David St. John Edward Louis St. John Elizabeth Ann St. John Stanley Conrad St. John Richard Jay Staples Robert Lee Staples Berniece Sutton Emma Edna Thomas Gary Marshall Thomas Michael Leo Towle Valetta Irene Towle Ramona Joyce Washington Patrick Weyaus Marilyn Jean Whitney Clyde Manuel Wind Rose Marie Wind Dorothy May Wistrom

Happy February Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Chris Jr.** on 2/7, love, the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Dede** on 2/10, love Dad! • Happy 5th birthday to my baby girl Cayleigh Marie

on 2/12, love you lots from Mommy, Hayd, & RiaButts. • Happy 7th birthday to **TANK** Wagner on 2/13, with love from Mommy, Elias, Sissy, Rico, Gramma Tammy, Uncle Brandon, Auntie Chantel, Jazmin and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday, **Adrian** on 2/13! Love mom. • Happy birthday **Jacob** on 2/16, love the Harrington family.

 Happy birthday Braelyn on 2/22! Love, Dad, Melissa, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Payton, Eric, Wesley, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Val, Pie, Kev, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, and

Rachel. • Happy birthday, Julia Barrett on 2/22! Love, your kids. • Happy birthday **Jacob** on 2/23, love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday to

Cregory Aaron aka Uncle Weez on 2/24, love ur niece and nephews, Tha Bugg Babies and Brother Darkness and Sis Jess. • Happy birthday Kelly Miller on 2/27, love Ella Marie, Terrence, mom, sisters, nieces, nephews and grandma Joyce. • Happy 28th birthday to the most beautiful mom, Kelly Miller

on 2/27. Love, Terrence and Ella Marie. • Happy 28th birthday to auntie **Kelly Belly** on 2/27. Love your we ehs cici Poose and Donny Bugg Love and miss you.

- Happy 28th birthday to Kelly on 2/27. Love, Marcus and Jess.
- Happy birthday to **Ow Pitch** on 2/29. Love your wa ehs the Bugg Babies, Brother Marc and Sister Jess.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday Franki on 1/2 from Auntie Sam, Sonny Bono, Chilah, Jayden & Jordan & Bunny. • Happy belated 16th birthday wishes to William Sayers III (aka little/big

Will) on 1/25, with love from

Grandma, Sami, Dad, Auntie Chilah, Xaviar, Jayden, Dezy & Jordan & Bunny. • I would like to wish a happy belated Golden birthday to **D. Leigh Thomas** on 1/31, from your family in D2A — Momma, we'eh's Jayden

& Jordan, Paul Bunny, brother William, & sister, Chilah.

Other

Announcements:

Amber Benjamin, who graduated from Brainerd High School last June 5, made the President's List for the Fall Semester from Central Lakes College. We, the entire family, are very proud of Amber and her accomplishment so far. We hope you continue to strive to do your best in whatever field you choose to go into. We love you!!!!! Amber is the daughter of LeAnn Benjamin and the late James C. Dorr Sr. & Granddaughter of Joycelyn Shingobe and Perry Benjamin.

Submit Birthday Announcements

or call 612-465-0653.

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is 20 WORDS OR **LESS** to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@ redcircleagency.com

The deadline for the March issue is February 15.

Mille Lacs Indian Museum February Events

Kids Crafts: Story Book Time and Decorate a Shoulderbag

Saturday, February 6

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Fee: \$7 per bag (museum admission not included).

Enjoy stories and light snacks from noon to 1 p.m., then from 1 to 3 p.m. children can decorate a shoulderbag. This activity provides a hands-on introduction to the arts and culture of the Ojibwe, a woodland people of the Great Lakes region. Please allow an hour to decorate the bag. This project is recommended for children ages 5 and up. For more information please call 320-532-3632 or send an e-mail to millelacs@mnhs.org

Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop

Saturday, February 27 & Sunday, February 28

Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday Fee: \$60/\$55 for MNHS members; Additional supply fee of \$25

Reservations: required, call 320-532-3632

Learn techniques of working with leather in this 2-day workshop to make a pair of Ojibwe-style moccasins to take home. Registration is required three days prior to workshop. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided both days. A minimum of five participants required to host workshop. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted hotel rooms are available for workshop participants on Saturday night at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. To register or for more information please call 320-532-3632 or send an e-mail to millelacs@mnhs.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Valentine's Dance/Party

February 12, 2016, 6-9 p.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center For all urban area Elders. Entertainment, door prizes, games, etc.

Chiminising Ziigwan Powwow

March 12, 2016

Chiminising Community Center

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Candidate Forums will be held in March in each district. Please watch for upcoming candidate forum notification via the Band's website and Facebook. A notice will also be shared in the March edition of the *Inaajimowin*.

NAMEBINI-GIIZIS SUCKERFISH MOON FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Band Assembly meeting times and dates subject to change.	Sweat: Women DI Minobimaadiziwin Hotel Tabata Workout EVERY MONDAY 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Pipe and Dish Ceremony Nay Ah Shing High School	Moccasin Game Teaching 6 p.m. DI Minobimaadiziwin Hotel Language Table 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Minisinaakwaang WIC Clinic 9 a.m.—12 p.m. 1—4 p.m. Mille Lacs	Women's Recovery Group SNAP 1 p.m. DI Minobimaadiziwin Hotel Tabata Workout EVERY WEDNESDAY 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	Men of Tradition 6:30 p.m. DI Minobimaadiziwin Hotel Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. Chi Minising WIC Clinic 10 a.m.—12 p.m. 1—3 p.m. East Lake ALU	Fipe Ceremony/ Talking SNAP 10:30 a.m. DI Minobimaadiziwin Hotel	Beading Class 4 p.m. Minobimaadiziwin Hotel Wellbriety Meeting 6:30 p.m. Minobimaadiziwin Hotel Metro Snowmobile Safety Class 9 a.m. Joe Nayquonabe's Drum
7	8	Q Language Table 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. Black Bear Casino in Cloquet, MN WIC Clinic 9 a.m.—12 p.m. 1—4 p.m. Mille Lacs	DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Health Fair 12–4 p.m. Wewinabi Early Ed Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. Black Bear Casino in Cloquet, MN WIC Clinic 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. 1–3:30 p.m. The Lodge-HK	11 Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. Eddy's Resort	Valentine's Party 6-9 p.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center DI Valentine's Party 5:30-8 p.m. DI Community Center	DII Snowmobile Safety Class 9 a.m. East Lake
14	15 Government Offices Closed – Chief's Day	Language Table 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers Pipe Ceremony Nay Ah Shing High School WIC Clinic Mille Lacs	DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Construct Tomorrow 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center Breathe Free Support Group 12—1 p.m. MLB Public Health Building	Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers	19	20
21	PAC – Parent Meeting Nay Ah Shing High School Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center	Language Table 6:30 p.m. DI Community Center Healthy Heart Class 12–1 p.m. DI Community Center Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting WIC Clinic Mille Lacs	Dlla Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. High School Conferences Nay Ah Shing High School WIC Clinic 10 a.m.—12 p.m. 1—3 p.m. Aazhoomog	DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Band Assembly Meeting	26	27
Moccasin Workshop See pg.14 "The Jingle Dress Tradition" See pg.16	29	Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events				

Child Support Enforcement Update

Updated addresses and phone numbers

The Child Support office would like to remind all Child Support clients the importance of updating your address and phone numbers with our office. At any given time we could possibly need to contact our clients regarding payments, updates or concerns with their case. When a client updates OMB or Enrollments with a new address we do not get that update so please update the Child Support office as well.

The Child Support office would like any Custodial Parents (CP's) and Non-Custodial Parents (NCP's) whom would like an in depth account statement from 2015 to contact our office requesting one to be mailed to them or picked up at our office.

If you have any questions or concerns with your case, please contact your Case Manager below:

- Shannon Nayquonabe, District 1 Case Manager, 320-532-7453
- Tammy Smith, District II, II-A, III and Urban Case Manager, 320-532-7752

The Child Support office will be closed all day on February 15, 2016 for Chief's Day.

If you have any questions or concerns contact our office directly at 320-532-7755.

"The Jingle Dress Tradition"

Sunday, February 28

7:00 pm

The Minnesota Channel (tptMN)

This program was created by TPT with the MLBO Historic Preservation Office to introduce the story of the Jingle Dress, and its musical and dance traditions, to all Minnesotans. Dancers, drummers, singers and dressmakers from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe worked with elder Larry "Amik" Smallwood and the producer, Rick Anderson, to capture the spirit, meaning, significance and history of the Jingle Dress Dance.

In addition to this special premiere presentation, TPT will also be airing on that same evening 3 other programs that celebrate the Ojibwe peoples and cultures of Minnesota. All four of these productions were created in partnerships between TPT and Native bands or filmmakers.

Please check local listings for "The Minnesota Channel."

Sobriety Powwow – A Fun New Tradition

By Bradley Harrington Writer/Photographer

The drums were loud, the dancers were smooth, and the atmosphere radiated fun — sober fun. Seventy-eight dancers, four drum groups and 285 spectators showed up at the New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow in District I.

Joe Nayquonabe Sr. spoke for the food to begin the feast before Host Drum "Ain Dah Yung," from Minneapolis, welcomed in the dancers at the 7 p.m. Grand Entry, which was right on time.

Everyone was on their feet as the Eagle Staff and Flags were danced into the arena.

With quick wit, deep knowledge and Indian humor, Herb Sam called forth the activities of the evening as the MC with his Arena Director, Duck White.

Among the royalty in attendance were Sierra Edwards, Mille Lacs Band Senior Princess, Mandaamin Grapp, Mille Lacs Junior Princess, Ameliyah Joseph, Wewinabi Tiny Tot Princess, and Jathan Joseph, Wewinabi Headstart Brave.

As Naamijig (the Dancers) showed off their moves and Negamojig (the Singers) provided the beat, the goodness and hope flowed from Maawadishiwejig (the visitors). Spot Danc-

es, a Potato Dance, Team Dances and Drawings were a part of the festivities all evening.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a local non-profit, provided concessions and "Walking Tacos." A Round Dance ended the night as the countdown took place with a release of balloons from the ceiling. They partied the night away with funds distributed to Behavioral Health from the Drink Tax Resolution.

Mille Lacs Band Behavioral Health and the District I Legislative Office have been sponsoring this event since 2007 to provide a place to celebrate the coming of a New Year in a sober environment. The Sobriety Powwow Committee consisted of Sandy Blake, Crystal Weckert, Billie Jo Sarcia, Chandelle Boyd, Semira Kimpson, Megan Ballinger and Kim Sam.

"This is my second year working the powwow," said Chandelle Boyd. "I used to be a party animal at the bars for New Year's! I'm done with that mess now and enjoyed helping with a sober, safe community event instead."

Billie Jo exclaimed, "I loved how many youth were there and dancing. It was so fun to see everyone laugh at the balloon drop and potato dance."

They expect to see more drummers, dancers and visitors next year since the numbers have been growing every year.

This developing tradition offers the opportunity for those struggling with addiction to have a place to celebrate sobriety during a time where there would have been chemical usage.

Some participants had been sober for 30 days, others for 30-plus years; some came from down the road, others from Aazhoomog, Minisinaakwaang or Grand Portage.

Although their stories differed, they all came together to celebrate an ancient principle and a new tradition of sobriety.



The Sobriety Powwow committee consisted of (back) Semira Kimpson, Billie Jo Sarcia, Kim Sam, Crystal Weckert, Chandelle Boyd, (front) Sandi Blake and Megan Ballinger. For more photos, see millelacsband.com. At the bottom left of the home page, search for "sobriety powwow."

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Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE BENJAMIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin! March was another busy month, filled with meetings and progress on many different issues critical to the Band. My calendar in March included the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Legislative Dinner in St. Paul, hosted by the Mille Lacs Band at our Doubletree Hotel; meetings with the Band Assembly; Executive Branch strategic planning meetings; Treaty Rights day and many meetings with Band members. I also meet with the School Board, who are very concerned about ensuring our kids are educated in the best way.

The opiate crisis is an issue that I know weighs heavily on the minds of every Band family, because we have all been touched by tragedy resulting from this epidemic in some way. We truly are making progress, although we must do more. The U.S. Attorney General's Heroin Task Force recently released its national recommendations. Remarkably, prior to release of this report, the Band had already addressed or instituted nearly every recommendation through our Opiate Community Response Plan. More about that plan is in this newspaper.

With our educational campaign and help from families, more expectant women have come forward seeking medical help with addiction, and some have even delivered babies who've tested drug-free at birth, which is monumental progress. Also, we will soon open a residential home for expectant women suffering from addiction, and we are about to become the first Indian Tribe in Minnesota to take over an in-patient recovery facility where our Band Members can go for treatment and recovery.

On the national front, President Obama recently announced \$1.1 billion in new funding to fight opioid abuse and the heroin epidemic, and the Mille Lacs Band is being credited by lawmakers with being instrumental in getting these tribal provisions included. Further, Congress recently introduced federal legislation to fight the tribal opiate crisis, and several provisions in the bill came directly from recommendations we made when I testified before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee last summer. This is an uphill battle and we are still in a crisis state, but I'm not aware of any other tribe that has fought as hard as the Mille Lacs Band to beat this epidemic.

We must do much more, and we must never give up, but together we are going to beat this. Chi Miigwech to our HHS and Judicial Branch team, the other elected officials and the many Band Members who have devoted themselves to working on this critical issue in our community.

March is not typically a month when we think about ricing, but manoomin seemed to be the central theme of the month. The biggest news came on March 15, when Governor Dayton announced his proposal to expand the rights of Band Mem-

bers who harvest wild rice throughout the state — including off-reservation and outside treaty-ceded territories — without a state license. In his proposal, Band Members who possess valid tribal licenses would be allowed to harvest manoomin statewide! This was a huge victory for the tribes and Anishinaabe people in Minnesota, and one result of our hard work in building a relationship with Governor Dayton that is based on mutual respect, understanding and education about our culture and rights. Chi Miigwech to Governor Dayton!

About ten days earlier on March 4th, manoomin was also a central theme for the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC). At this meeting, Commissioner John Stine of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency discussed with us his plans for designation of lakes and rivers that would be subject to new wild rice water quality standards, which of course is a critical issue for the Mille Lacs Band. Manoomin is extremely sensitive to sulfate levels, so mining and pipeline activity can have a drastic impact on the rice beds.

Next up was Commissioner Rothman of the Department of Commerce (DOC) who shared his Tribal Consultation Policy, which grew out of the Mille Lacs Band's efforts to require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and DOC to consult with Indian tribes about the Sandpiper Pipeline Project. A focus of the pipeline discussion has been the risk to manoomin of an oil spill. Commissioner Rothman credited the Mille Lacs Band with working with him and his staff on the policy, so his announcement of this work at MIAC was exciting. I asked Commissioner Rothman to ensure that DOC uses our tribal experts in developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Sandpiper, rather than consulting with us after the EIS

The Sandpiper came up again moments later, when two State representatives, Honor the Earth and advocates of indigenous water rights requested that MIAC write a letter Governor Dayton asking him to assign development of the EIS on the proposed route of the Sandpiper to the Tribes, the Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. instead of the Department of Commerce. I'm happy to say that MIAC agreed to write this letter. This makes sense because as tribes, we have the best experts in Minnesota and should be involved with developing the EIS. Also, the DNR and MPCA have more expertise than Commerce to work on the EIS, and both agencies have expressed serious concerns about the proposed Sandpiper route. We will continue doing whatever we can to stop this pipeline from going through our territory.

With Presidential elections around the corner, I've been thinking a great deal about the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead of us as a Band. Under Band law, the Chief Executive is charged with conducting external relations with other governments, so much of my time is spent educating and generating support for our needs, as well as ensuring the federal government is living up to its legal obligations under the federal trust responsibility toward tribes.

President Obama's Administration has been one of extraordinary respect and support for Indian Nations. We have accomplished so much as a Band over the past three years of President Obama's second term, and none of that would have been possible if the Administration were unsupportive or hostile toward tribal governments. Most Presidents and their appointees tend to find more courage during a second term, because they don't need to run for re-election, so I've worked very hard to focus on getting as much done for the Band as I can in Washington D.C. during this three-year window of opportunity. Yet even with a friendly administration, it still requires great skill, strategy and a winning team to get things done in Washington D.C.

Securing approval of our application under the Tribal Law and Order Act and obtaining the federal government's support for our reservation boundary are two of the major initiatives we were able to successfully achieve during President Obama's second term. With the Violence Against Women Act, President Obama has also done more to help tribes combat crime than any other president. Permanent funding for Pine Grove is also an outcome of the President's commitment to education, and he has transferred more lands into trust than any other President, which has also been our focus.

During the next nine months of the President's Administration, the Band will continue to leverage resources and support for other matters critical to our interests. We also must be engaged and involved in the Presidential elections coming up, and ensure that whomever is elected continues the pro-tribal sovereignty legacy of President Obama.

Miigwech to all the Band Members who have come forward to help advance these critical issues for the Band at the grassroots level. Band government is only successful when Band Members get involved; the Mille Lacs Band is blessed with some of the smartest, most committed and hard-working people I've ever known. Chi Miigwech to all of you who work hard every day for your families and our community!

Melni Beyon

Attention Veterans and Families

A mural is nearly finished at the government center; we are seeking 3-inch-by-5-inch Band member service portraits of yourself or a family member to incorporate. If you only have one copy, we can make a high-quality copy, and even in some cases digitally enhance those that are fading. If you have any questions, please call Administration offices at 320-532-7478.





Tainted Heroin, Overdoses Renew Concerns About Drugs

Police and medical agencies in the Mille Lacs area are warning citizens that tainted heroin may have been distributed in the area

Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services for the Band, said a local health system emergency room responded to 11 overdoses in three days over the weekend of March 5–6. In addition, a Band member passed away of a suspected overdose, but the cause of death has not been confirmed.

Sam and Mille Lacs Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati released a statement on Tuesday, March 8, warning of the tainted drugs and asking individuals to turn in heroin — with the assurance that they would not be prosecuted.

Tribal Police officers and other personnel have also been trained in the use of naloxone (Narcan), a medication used to counteract the effects of opioid overdose.

Authorities in Fargo and Bemidji have also warned resi-

dents of tainted heroin in those areas. In Fargo, three died and two were injured from overdoses during the same week in March.

Media reports stated that the heroin was laced with fentanyl or morphine, making it up to 50 times more powerful than usual.

Four men from the Twin Cities area were arrested in Fargo on March 13 and charged

with possession of heroin with intent to distribute, as well as other charges.

In Bemidji in late February, one person died and three others were hospitalized for heroin overdoses.

Any community member can surrender Heroin or any other controlled substance to the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department, and turn it in to Tribal Police with no questions asked. Please call the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police at 320-532-3430 for more information or help with substance disposal.

Band members seeking treatment for drug addiction are encouraged to call the Band's Behavioral Health Department at 800-709-6445 ext. 7776 or 320-532-4754 or 320-532-7776.

Public Safety Warning

Recent events in our community point toward the fact that the supply of heroin currently being distributed in our community may be corrupt and more dangerous than normal heroin. We urge anyone who is using to stop immediately, as this altered heroin may cause severe medical issues or even death.

Our goal is to get this dangerous stock of heroin and all heroin or other illicit drugs off of the streets of our community.

Please call the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police at 320-532-3430 for more information or for help with substance disposal.

Any community member who wants help with addiction please call 320-532-7773, and

Health and Human Services will render assistance.

Current Minnesota "Good Samaritan" laws protect community members from criminal prosecution for anyone who renders aide to a person or persons having an overdose from controlled substances. We ask that you call 911 immediately when you are involved in this type of situation.

Please help us in our efforts to make this community a safer place for everyone.

Chief of Police, Jared Rosati

Commissioner, Sam Moose

Sandpiper, Tribal Consultation on Agenda

The government of the State of Minnesota is taking tribal consultation more seriously than ever, thanks in part to the Mille Lacs Band's ongoing battle against the Sandpiper oil pipeline.

At the March 10 quarterly meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), Minnesota Commissioner of Commerce Mike Rothman informed tribal leaders that his department had developed a tribal consultation policy, which he shared at the meeting.

The meeting was held at the Band's Double Tree by Hilton hotel in downtown St. Paul.

Rothman gave credit to the Mille Lacs Band for educating him on the importance of tribal consultation. He said the Department of Commerce would follow the new policy when preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sandpiper Pipeline project.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who is on the board of MIAC, thanked Rothman and advised him to take advantage of tribal expertise in preparing the EIS.

Background

In 2013, Gov. Mark Dayton signed an executive order requiring state agencies to develop tribal consultation policies.

The Band was critical of the state's permitting process for the Sandpiper Pipeline because tribes were not consulted. The pipeline, proposed by Enbridge Energy of Canada, would cross through the Rice Lake and Sandy Lake watersheds, which are home to wild rice beds of cultural and economic significance to Band members in District II communities of Minisinaakwaang, Sandy Lake and Minnewawa.

The Band also criticized the fact that the state did not hold hearings on tribal land. In response, the Band held its own

hearing at the Minisinaakwang (East Lake) Community Center last June.

Commerce or DNR?

The MIAC also heard from a panel of five women, including two state representatives and three tribal members, who asked MIAC to sign a letter objecting to the Department of Commerce conducting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sandpiper pipeline.

The letter recommends that the EIS be completed by the Minnesota DNR, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the tribes.

Melanie made a motion to sign the letter. The motion was seconded and passed by the MIAC board.

The Public Utilities Commission initially approved the certificate of need for the pipeline last June, but the state Court of Appeals determined that the PUC had violated the Minnesota Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) by granting the certificate prior to the EIS.

After the EIS is conducted, the PUC will reconsider the Sandpiper certificate of need application.

Treaty Day

Treaty Day was celebrated on March 25, after this issue of Ojibwe *Inaajimowin* went to press. Please see the May issue for coverage of Treaty Day.

Primary Election Scheduled for April 5

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will hold a primary election April 5 and a general election June 14 to choose elected officials for the six MCT member bands, including Mille Lacs.

The following individuals were certified on February 11, 2016 as candidates for elective office in the 2016 MCT Election:

Chief Executive (in alphabetical order): Melanie Benjamin, Sheldon Boyd, Clifford Churchill, Lisa Jackson, George LaFave, Michelle Pagel, Wanetta Thompson.

District I Representative: Sandra Blake, Irene Benjamin, Arlene Weous, Ginger Weyaus, Suzanne Wise.

District I School Board: Semira Kimpson. District II School Board: No candidates filed. At-large School Board Chair: Kim Kegg.

If any of the candidates receive more than 50 percent of the vote, a general election will not be required. Otherwise, the top two finishers will face each other on June 14.

Polling Places

There are five polling places where Mille Lacs Band members can cast ballots from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.: District I (Neyaashing) Community Center; District II (Minisinaakwaang) Community Center; District IIa (Chiminising) Community Center; District III (Aazhoomog) Community Center; All Nations Church, 1515 E. 23rd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

National News

Federal Health Funding

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on March 9 to focus on the fiscal year 2017 budget request for tribal programs. The hearing came after Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyoming), the chairman of the committee, expressed strong support for funding increases to programs that enhance self-determination, economic development, education, health care, housing and public safety. In a statement Sen. Barrasso said, "The funding provided to Indian people and Native communities is an important federal responsibility. The president's FY 2017 budget request calls for increases for tribal-related programs, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service."

Resources Needed to Stop Domestic Violence

Tribal leaders and advocates gathered in Washington, D.C. in late February to brief Congress on implementation of a provision in the 2013 Violence Against Women Act, which affirmed tribes' ability to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over non-Natives who commit domestic assault, or engage in dating violence, on tribal lands. Recognizing that the Department of Justice's 2014 decision to grant special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction under VAWA was a "historic" step toward upholding tribal sovereignty, advocates and tribal leaders say that the law should be expanded upon to grant greater protections to tribal citizens at risk of assaults by non-Natives, and that Nations should receive adequate resources to implement the law.

Juvenile Justice

Furthering President Obama's efforts to support American Indian and Alaska Native families and protect tribal communities, the U.S. Justice Department, Health and Human Services and Bureau of Indian Affairs have announced a draft revised BIA Model Indian Juvenile Code. The federal departments are seeking public comment on the draft, which will be the subject of listening and consultation sessions scheduled for March and April. Lawrence S. Roberts, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said, "The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Model Indian Juvenile Code provides federal guidance for tribal governments to help protect the rights of Indian juveniles and their parents, quardians or custodians while also respecting tribal governments' need to modify juvenile codes to fit each unique tribal community."

See You on the Tube?

American TV could soon see more programming created for and by native peoples. While many minorities have made huge strides in network TV with shows like *Black-ish* and *Jane the Virgin*, network representation of American Indians is nearly nonexistent. That's why the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, a Canadian cable channel dedicated to indigenous peoples, is planning to launch All Nations Network in the U.S. sometime soon.

Statewide Graduation Rates Increase

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

In 2013 the U.S. Department of Education ranked Minnesota last in on-time graduation rate for Native American students.

Since then tribes, states, school districts and the U.S. government have taken steps to change that dismal statistic and better support Native American students.

There's no quick fix that can reverse this depressing trend, yet there was a glimmer of hope this year when the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) released its 2014-2015 graduation rates.

The results showed that more Minnesota students were graduating from high school, including Native American students and students of color. The graduation rates were the highest in the past decade.

According to the MDE the graduation rate for Native American students was 51.9 percent, which is an increase of 7.7 percentage points since 2010. Other student groups — Black, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islanders — saw increases too, which helps to close the achievement gap between white students and others.

Brenda Cassellius, the Minnesota Commissioner of Education, said, "While we celebrate this forward momentum, there is still work to do. As long as we see inequities, we must remain diligent, working each day to fulfill our promise that every student deserves the chance to succeed."

Suzanne Wise, the Band's Commissioner of Education, agrees. "Our graduation rate hasn't changed much, but we have seen growth in the attendance (numbers) of students," said Suzanne.

"One of the largest obstacles to graduating has been attendance," said Suzanne. "If a student is not in school, they fall behind, and for many, they lack the support to get caught up. As the attendance rate goes up, we will have higher gradua-

tion rates in the near future."

Last year Suzanne directed staff to work on truancy issues among MLB students.

One result was the move to have Niigaan Youth Program staff working in public schools to ensure support for students and staff.

Suzanne said the number of students in the after-school programs has also increased.

"Every student who participates in Niigaan gets a snack or a meal, gets homework help, gets mentoring and is able to attend incentive trips based on their grades and attendance," she said. "It has made a night-and-day difference for our students."

The Niigaan program is in all districts, but not in the

Recently, the Band received a grant from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to operate a youth leadership program that focused on Ojibwe language and culture, mentoring band members and being a leader.

Further, the Band is going to apply for a collaborative grant with public schools to be able to hire more staff to work in public schools.

Band officials are also discussing a change in statutes in order to keep students up to age 18 in school. Currently, students can quit when they are 16 with a parent's consent. Some would also like to require a high school diploma — not just a general education diploma (GED) — to receive money that is held in trust for minors.

"These things, while they are still in discussion and nothing is official, would help keep more students in school," Suzanne said. "I know it would."

Addiction and Recovery Act Passes

The federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which is designed to combat the prescription drug and illegal opiate epidemic, passed the U.S. Senate by a wide margin on March 10.

The bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who authored a provision to combat drug abuse by enhancing prescription drug monitoring programs..

The House of Representatives has not acted on its version of the bill, HR953. If the House passes the bill, President Obama is expected to sign it.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin testified in the Senate on July 29, 2015, about the devastating impact of opiate addiction at Mille Lacs, after which some provisions aimed at Indian Country were added to the bill.

Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) filed an amendment that would make technical corrections to include tribes and the Indian Health Service (IHS) in more CARA provisions, as well as create tribal set-asides within grant programs so that tribes can better access funding and address opioid addiction in their communities. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) has also filed an amendment that would coordinate prescription drug monitoring programs with the IHS.

CARA would establish a number of new initiatives aimed at combatting opioid addiction, including the establishment of an inter-agency task force within the Department of Health & Human Services to develop best practices for pain management and authorizes the Justice Department to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments and law enforcement agencies in order to:

- Create a demonstration law enforcement program to prevent opioid and heroin overdose death
- Dispose of prescription medications and to expand or

- make available disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications
- Implement medication assisted treatment programs through their criminal justice agencies
- Support alternatives to incarceration programs for juveniles
- Support educational programs for incarcerated offenders
 The 94-1 victory was a rare example of bipartisan cooperation in Washington. However, Republicans and Democrats disagree on the funding required to implement the
 law's provisions.

Republicans say \$400 million from last year's Omnibus bill can be used to fund the programs, but Democrats say additional funding is needed. An amendment to provide an additional \$600 million was defeated.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), who introduced the bill, said, "Let's not pretend there is money for this."

Among the other provisions of CARA:

- Expand prevention and educational efforts particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations to prevent the abuse of opioids and heroin and to promote treatment and recovery.
- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents.

Community Development Seeks to Clean Up Communities

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The "broken windows theory" states that when communities address small crimes like vandalism, they create a positive atmosphere that reduces more serious crime.

Community Development Commissioner Percy Benjamin and his team are hoping to clean up the reservation communities by getting rid of some abandoned buildings — not just to prevent crime, but also to reduce accidents.

"These abandoned buildings can be a danger to the public," Percy said. "If a fire starts in one of these buildings, it can spread to others in the neighborhood." He said kids are known to explore the buildings, where they can be exposed to broken glass, drug paraphernalia, holes in the ground and other dangers.

Community Development's proposal is to absorb the cost of demolition for Band members who agree to give up their leases on abandoned or dilapidated properties.

The cost to demolish a home is approximately \$10,000 plus labor, depending on the size.

The Band has the legal authority to condemn the property, take the lease and bill Band members for the cost of demolition, but Percy said his department prefers not to use the condemnation process.

"We'd like to see people do it voluntarily," he said. "If you have ownership rights in a lease, we're willing to work with you to get it cleaned up at little to no cost to you in exchange for giving up the rights to the property," Percy said.

The earthworks crew has been taking down several houses each year, but now with the Band's new excavator, they can step up their efforts

Percy thinks there are as many as 50 properties in the three districts that are beyond repair and should be demolished. These include homes, garages, outbuildings and public facilities.

If you hold a lease to a dilapidated or abandoned home and are interested in helping to create a cleaner and safer community, contact Percy at 320-532-7508 or percy.benjamin@millelacsband.com.

Community Development Master Project List

See progress and plans below for our communities

District I Community Development Schedule

, ,	
Project	% Complete
Commercial — New	
#11014: New Roads Garage Design #11016: DI Roads Garage Construction	100% 0%
Commercial — Remodel	
#12065: Budget Host Remodel	75%
#12071: Legislative Mailroom Expansion	90%
#12073: DI Comm. Ctr. Exterior Door	0%
#12075: DI Pow Wow Electrical Upgrades	0%
Residential — New	
#13053: 47735 Swing-a-Way Rental	98%
#13054: 6047 Edgewater Circle Tamarack w/o Garage	98%
#13055: 47165 Partridge Pass Demo & Replace	0%
#13056: 18332 Baffie Bend Tamarack	95%
Residential — Remodel	
#14094: 17429 Noopiming Lane	95%
#14096: 43422 Mosey Drive	40%
#14097: 45757 US Hwy 169	95%
#14109: 45447 US Hwy 169 Septic Replace	0%
#14111: 15979 Nay Ah Shing Drive	0%
#14112: 16052 Hwy 27	40%
#14113: 45881 US Hwy 169	10%
Infrastructure/PublicWorks	
#15000: Sher Property Engineering	85%
#15001: Sher Property Development Construction	55%
#15003: Vineland Safe Roads to School Sidewalks	0%

District II Community Development Schedule

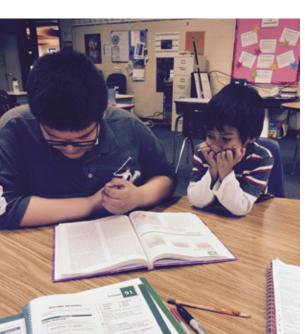
Project	% Complete
Commercial — New	
#21000: DII Pow Wow Arena Design	90%
#21002: DII Pow Wow Arena Construction	20%
#22016: Galloway Old College Demolition	0%
Residential — New	
#23047: 1930 Moose Dr. Butternut Elder	20%
#23048: 1920 Moose Dr. Walnut Rental	20%
#23056: 2240 Moose Dr. Butternut Elder	30%
#23050: 20982 363rd Lane Butternut Elder	98%
#23051: 19632 364th Lane Alder Rental	98%
#23052: 20209 380th St. Blue Spruce Rental	99%
#23057: 20023 380th St. Alder Rental	99%
Residential — Remodel	
#24022: 21842 Goshawk	0%
#24023: 90 N. Main St. McGregor	0%
#24026: 37904 207th Place	0%
#24043: 37921 207th Place	0%
#24044: 2545 Naawaakwaa St.	0%

District III Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
Commercial — New	
#31001: Rutledge Grounds Facility	20%
Commercial — Remodel	
#32018: Community Center Flagpoles	50%
Residential — New	
#33044: Zhingwaak Playground and Park	92%
#33067: 2490 Oshki Odena Street (Alder Rental)	70%
#33070: 2428 Oshki Odena Street (Alder Rental)	95%
#33068: 1290 Oshki Odena Placa (Tamarack walkout)	95%
#33069: 1285 Oshki Odena Place (Blue Spruce Elder)	95%
#33071: 2660 Zhingob Ave. Sugar Maple Rental	35%
#33072: 2651 Zhingob Ave. Alder Rental	50%
#33073: 1120 Zhingob Ave. Blue Spruce Rental	60%
Residential — Remodel	
#34089: 62264 Grouse Trail	0%
Infrastructure/PublicWorks	
#35000: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Engineering	85%
#35001: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Construction	60%
#35002: Evergreen Drive Extension Engineering	95%
#35003: Evergreen Ct. Extension Construction	85%

All Districts/Misc. Projects

Project	% Complete
#50000: Community Center Generators	100%
#50001: All Districts Bathroom Renovations	10%
#50003: HI Driveway Paving	50%
#50004: Ceremonial Bldg Upholstery	40%



Study Buddies!

Pine Grove Leadership Academy in Aazhoomog is a close-knit community of students, where the younger kids can get help from their older and wiser friends. On a March day at Pine Grove, Byron Benjamin and Xzavier St. John did some reading together.

Young Wrestler Finds Success, Learns Lifelong Lessons

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Grant Hendren had his first experience of wrestling competitively when he was just six years old.

He was in the first grade, and while his heart was in it to win, he got crushed while participating in his first tournament, recalls his dad, Band member Joe Hendren.

"He went out there and got killed. I thought he was going to guit, but he didn't," said Joe. "We reminded him that he wanted to sign up and that we paid the money so he needed to finish the season, and after that he could guit."

South High School, was determined to become a wrestler.

In mid-March he wrestled in the USA Wrestling Dominate in the Dells National Tournament held in Wisconsin Dells. Unfortunately, he was injured in his second round, but that didn't dampen his excitement about participating in the tournament or for his teammates' success.

"I was disappointed," said Grant. "I thought I would do well, but got hurt in the second match."

Still, as an experienced athlete who has played team sports including hockey, football and baseball, Grant knows there's always another chance to improve and to win.

The tournament wasn't Grant's first time in the big show, and he knows what it's like to take home a win. In his young life he's had a number of accomplishments in his wrestling career. In the fourth grade he took third place at the Minnesota

But young Grant, who is now 14 and a freshman at Lakeville

USA Folkstyle in state, first place in Greco Roman, first in Freestyle, and fifth place in the national regional for Greco Roman

He has been a starter on the Lakeville South High School varsity team since he was a seventh grader. That same year he placed fourth in the high school sections. By eighth grade he earned third place in the high school sections, and in the ninth grade he was the section 1AAA champion.

He advanced to the Minnesota High School State Tournament this past February. Last year he was the first place Freestyle MN USA Champion.

Grant was also selected as a member of the Minnesota Storm National Schoolboy team. In 2015, Grant represented team Minnesota in the National Dual Tournament

"Wrestling is all you," said his dad. "It's physical because it's just you and another kid on a mat during the battle."

Athletes like Grant learn lessons in discipline, teamwork and dedication. They learn to work hard, persevere and accept disappointment.

During the wrestling season Grant maintains a strict diet of fruits, vegetables and proteins, like eggs. He doesn't eat meat and avoids foods laden with salt, such as pasta. That also means no hamburgers or french fries — a typical teenager's dream meal.

He also works out and does a variety of exercises such as Cross Fit.

"I don't do a lot of weight lifting, but I do more explosive stuff like pull-ups, jumps and footwork."

Wrestlers have to maintain a certain weight because they compete against others who are in the same weight class because it makes the match more balanced. This year Grant is in the 126-pound weight class.

Over the years, Joe has watched his son grow in his confidence and ability.

"He became confident, and once he had the technique he learned how to push through it whether he was winning or losing," said Joe. "He doesn't always like it, but at the end of each season he sees progress."

Grant agrees and knows that he's representing both himself and his team. Part of being on a team is "helping them, pushing them and encouraging them," he said.

"Wrestling is fun, but it's also hard with all of the physical contact," Grant said.

Still, it's a sport he would recommend to other young people who are looking for a challenge.

"My advice is don't quit, work hard and you'll get to your goal."



Grant Hendren advanced to the state tournament by winning sections. In the first round of state, he won his match with an overtime takedown.





Ray Eagle, age 6, won the state tournament in Albany, Minn. with the Mille Lacs Raiders wrestling team on Saturday, March 19.



Good Sports

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy basketball players took to the road on Feb. 25 to face their counterparts at Nay Ah Shing. After a good time competing on the court, they sat around the drum and sang a few songs together.



HHS Implements Opiate Response Plan

Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services (HHS), has been providing the tribal government and Band members with updates on his department's implementation of the opiate crisis response plan developed last year.

At the Band Assembly on Tuesday, March 15 and the District III Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 16, Sam listed several new policies, procedures, programs and projects designed to address the problem of addiction.

The following are some of the steps HHS has already taken:

- Formation of a multidisciplinary response team facilitated by the Wraparound Program. The Neonatal team has had 17 mothers referred to the program, with eight currently working with a facilitator. Since the program started, there have been seven babies born — six with healthy medical screens and only one with Neo Natal Withdrawal Syndrome.
- Assessment of chemical dependency programming to ensure better response time, coordination of care, and improved supports for those returning from treatment.
- Strengthened outpatient services by addition of Rule 25 assessors in all districts. A continuum of care is being designed to connect assessment to treatment and halfway house options.
 A hybrid outpatient service is being considered for those awaiting in-patient treatment. A culturally-based curriculum is being developed and implemented.
- Improved residential treatment options. The Band is working with the State to take over operations of the Four Winds program in Brainerd. Gov. Dayton has proposed funding for the transition in his supplemental budget. HHS is also updating a proposal for a Family Healing Center.
- Development of a program for women and children. HHS is planning residential treatment centers for pregnant women and mothers in treatment and a monitored sober housing program in each district.

The update concludes, "These initiatives are the framework for the coming several years in order to begin to address the level of addiction in our communities and prepare for a future where the children of the Mille Lacs Band are under less of a threat than they are today."

In addition to all of the projects updated above, additional activities within HHS are in part or in full being driven by the crisis of opiates and other drugs in our communities, including drug agreements protocol, pharmacy restrictions, a public safety workgroup, a pharmacy monitor program, addiction management training for providers, and expansion of Family Services.

HHS Needs Band Members to Provide Proof of Eligibility

The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) is asking for cooperation of beneficiaries to provide proof of eligibility in order to receive services. Proof of eligibility is required by Federal law and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe/Health and Human Services Direct Services Policy.

To be sure Federal Law and the Direct Services Policy are followed, beneficiaries will be asked to provide the following:

- Tribal Member: Tribal Identification or CIB
- First Generation Descendants/ Minor child of an enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member:
 Parent's Tribal Identification or CIB and birth certificate
- Tribal Member/ Non-Tribal Spouse: Tribal Spouse's Tribal ID or CIB, Photo Identification, Marriage Certificate
- MLBO Employee: Employee Identification
- MLBO Employee's Dependent or Child: Parent's Employee ID, Birth Certificate.
- MLBO Employee's Spouse: Spouse's Employee Identification, Marriage Certificate.
 Any beneficiary who is eligible for direct services through MLBO Health and Human

Services and has provided required eligibility documentation may receive care at any of the District Clinics.

As of April 1, 2016, if you are unable to provide the required documentation, MLBO Health and Human Services will be unable to see you until the required documents are provided.

 $\label{eq:mille} \mbox{Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services will see any individual in emergency circumstances.}$

For questions or concerns please contact:

Jeff Larson, Executive Director Health and Human Services

Cheri Hample, Health Services Director

320-532-4163.

State & Local News

Games On!

The Northern Indigenous Games will take place for a week in April, from Minneapolis to Bemidji. The events feature indigenous athletes and coaches presenting traditional games played by various cultures throughout North America. "These games are centuries old, and are continuing to be played by the indigenous people," said event director Dan Ninham of Red Lake. "We are providing an outstanding opportunity for people of all races to actively participate in and observe these games." Minneapolis South High School will be the first to host the tour of Northern Indigenous Games on April 17. Other locations will be Upper Sioux Community, Granite Falls on April 18; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia School District on April 19; White Earth Nation on April 20; Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Walker Hackensack Akeley School District on April 21; Red Lake Nation, Red Lake on April 20 and Red Lake Nation, Ponemah on April 21.

Good Run for Red Lake

Judging by all the red shirts packed into Williams Arena, Red Lake must have been a ghost town when the Red Lake High School boys basketball team made yet another trip to the state tournament. However, the Warriors' successful season began with intense sadness. Coach Roger White's 15-year-old son Aaron, an inspiring player and teammate, lost his battle with cancer on Nov. 1. With an arena full of fans there to cheer them on, the emotional season came to an end when the Warriors lost in the Class A semifinals. "This is all for our little brother Aaron," senior forward Jeremy Martin said. "He'd be so happy for us giving it our all and not giving up, playing through everything."

Grand Portage Band Studies Moose

While some, including Governor Mark Dayton, have said that collaring of moose is putting too much stress on the population, Grand Portage Band Director of Biology Seth Moore is finding the data derived from collaring to be invaluable in determining the cause of the moose decline. Over the last 26 years, the moose population on the Grand Portage reservation dropped 64 percent, and the herd in northeast Minnesota has plummeted from 9,000 to around 4,000 in 10 years. Data shows that 80 percent of the collared moose that have died have succumbed to health issues caused by parasites and ticks. "I think that's important," Moore said, "because public perception originally was that wolves were hammering moose populations, and at least with our data that hasn't been the case."

Twin Cities Health Care

Dr. Patrick Rock, CEO of Indian Health Board (IHB) medical and dental clinic in the heart of Minneapolis' Phillips Neighborhood, says every year it's the same thing: the federal government woefully underfunds urban Indian medical facilities in violation of its treaty obligations. Rock, an 18-year IHB employee and member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, says clinics like IHB must seek alternative funding sources as they strive to provide quality care to a population facing steep health challenges. With the 2010 passage of the Affordable Care Act, Rock saw an opportunity for funding just the kind of patient-centered innovation IHB had on its wish list for over a decade. With nearly \$1 million in capital provided under the ACA, the clinic has been revamped to improve patient outcomes and satisfaction, while reducing costs by using preventative medicine to keep patients out of emergency rooms.

1855 Treaty Citations

Two members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe are defending their right to hunt in off-reservation areas of Minnesota. Tony Lee Morris and Randy Gregg Finn shot a deer just outside of reservation boundaries and were cited by the state DNR officials for killing a deer out of season, on private land. Tribal attorney Frank Bibeau argued that the case should be dismissed. He said the 1855 Treaty gives tribe members the right to hunt, fish and gather across most of northern Minnesota. Bibeau plans to ask a federal court to step in and mediate a deal between the tribes and the state. He believes a federal judge will force the state to acknowledge treaty rights. Last year, other tribal members were cited for harvesting wild rice and fishing on off-reservation lands

New Aazhoomog Language Teacher Loves to Share the Gift

Brett Larson Staff Writer

In Canada, where Tom Jack was raised, children were removed from their homes and sent to boarding schools until the late 20th century.

Tom has vivid memories of the experience. As a five-yearold in the early 1960s, he was taken by plane from his home community on Lake of the Woods to a Catholic school in Kenora, Ontario. He lived there for the next 10 years, with no visits home, and a strictly regimented life filled with a foreign religion, French and Latin lessons, and harsh treatment from priests and nuns.

"The whole idea was to disconnect children from Anishinaabe customs, traditions, families and language, so we would be brown white kids," said Tom.

Tom credits his parents and his home community for saving him after those dark years. When his mom and dad came to get him in 1969, he didn't know who they were, but they soon gave him back his language and culture, ensuring that the efforts of the boarding school were ultimately unsuccessful. "That was the best summer of my life," he said. "The love and understanding of my parents and culture got me through the hard times."

Reversing the brainwashing process has been a lifelong struggle for Tom. He still hears those critical voices from the past giving him negative messages about his culture. His response has been to help others learn the language he was given as a child — and given again when he returned home as a young man.

Tom became a single parent at the age of 18, which gave him the determination to make a good life for himself and his son. Tom took advantage of a program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, earning a degree in education.

He put teaching on hold for 16 years, making a living as a truck driver. Eventually he felt called to preserve the language and culture his family had given him.

He took his first teaching job in Nipigon, Ontario, then taught in Thunder Bay and Grand Portage before coming to Mille Lacs, where he works at Pine Grove Leadership Academy and holds language tables twice a week — Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at Aazhoomog Community Center, and Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Corporate Commission building in Hinckley.

Tom describes his teaching style as informal. "It's a social situation that alleviates apprehension," he said. He begins by asking students what they want to learn and why so he can gear his teaching to his students' needs.

Tom is working towards developing or acquiring other resources for community use, including Anishinaabemowin



Tom Jack is the new language teacher in District III.

dictionaries, various reading materials and CDs. He is also available for tutoring, and professionals can receive continuing education credits for taking his classes or independent study.

So far Tom feels welcome in the District III community, and he hopes to finish his career here. He is grateful to the folks at Pine Grove, including Duck White and Skip and Donna Churchill, for making him feel at home.

He hopes to return the favor by making others feel at home and eager to learn at the language tables, while having fun in the process.

Culture is Important Part of Minisinaakwaang Curriculum

Cameron Farah Guest Writer

"Aadizooke," or storytelling, has found its way in to the curriculum at the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. The oral traditions of Anishinaabeg take place in the winter between maple and spring harvest. It is through these stories that traditional values and life lessons are taught.

Waynaaboozhoo is a great teacher to the Anishinaabeg and as such should always be regarded with respect. Through

his folly we learn what effect quick and disrespectful decisions and actions can have on all beings and things.

Aaron Buckanaga, an Ojibwe language intern at the Academy, told two stories on February 18. The first through third grades listened to the creation story and Waynaaboozhoo and the Geese. Both stories are well known, with the latter being added to the Indian elementary curriculum project of

Wisconsin in 1978.

Grades four through six are rehearsing a play based on the creation story. It is a great way the pass on the story and develop the students' conversational and social skills.

If you are interested in sharing your traditional Anishinaabe stories, contact the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in East Lake in District II.



Early Ed Powwow

Wewinabi Early Ed in District I holds a powwow every month, and the kids love it! As soon as the drum starts, they rush into the circle, dragging family members and caregivers along for the ride. The powwow is generally held on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m.



Contratulations, Candace!

Candace Killspotted, pictured with some of her family members, graduated from Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy recently. The May and June issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* will include photos of high school and college graduates. If you know any graduates, please have them send a photo to myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com.

Two-year College Occupational Program Grants Available

The MnSCU Two-Year Occupational Grant Pilot Program provides financial assistance to students enrolled in qualifying career and technical programs at MnSCU two-year colleges so that students can complete the program within two years or less and find employment in a high-demand occupation. The grant will cover any remaining tuition and general fee charges after the student's Federal Pell Grant and MN State Grant have been applied to the student's account. To qualify, students or their parents (if the student is a dependent) must have an adjusted gross income (or wages for non-filers) of \$90,000

or less for the 2015 tax year. The pilot program will be implemented for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years. Because this program listing is subject to change, students should check with the college to make sure the program is still offered. In order for the student to participate, the student must be admitted into and start the occupational program during fall term 2016. For information, see ohe.state.mn.us/mPg. cfm?pageID=2163. For information on other scholarships available to Band members, see millelacsband.com/tribal-government-home/education.















Meet Bill Jones

You may have seen Mille Lacs Band member Bill Jones at recent events, wielding a fancy-looking camera, and looking like he knows how to use it.

That's because Bill has been a professional photojournalist for almost 30 years.

"I've worked almost all my time in Minnesota," said Bill. "I love what I do because I get to tell people's stories, and I've never had one day like any other day."

Bill got his start as a staff photographer and photo editor at St. Cloud State University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree.

Then, from 1989 to 2009, he worked as staff photographer for Minnesota Sun Publications.

Since 2009, he's been a freelance photographer based in St. Cloud. He's taken photos for ABC Newspapers, *IQ* Magazine, Pioneer Place Theater, the Minnesota Department of Commerce and others.

Bill has enjoyed shooting events for *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, including the Minisinaakwaang Christmas Party, the District I Sobriety Powwow, the Polar Plunge and the Zhigwaan Youth Powwow at Chiminising Community Center.

"I like shooting for the Band because it is a form of pay back for all they have done for me over the years," Bill said. "My college education and my home are the direct results of Band programs, and I am grateful."

For more of Bill's photos from the Polar Plunge and the Zhigwaan Youth Powwow, see the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page.

Spring Dance / Photos by Bill Jones

The first-ever Ziigwan (It is Spring) Youth Powwow took place at Chiminising Community Center in District IIa on March 12. It was a successful debut, with many dancers from around the region. Serenitie Morin (pictured on the cover) was named Princess, and Waylon Mitchell (bottom center) was named Brave.

Mille Lacs Polar Plungers Raise More Than \$40,000

Bill Jones Photographer



Last month 250 individuals registered and plunged at the fifth annual Lake Mille Lacs Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota. Given the unseasonable weather and ice conditions, organizers were able to get more than 250 plungers through.

On March 4, Joe Nayquonabe and Tracy Sam also braved the waters of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis for the Executive Challenge. Grand Casino was the major sponsor of this event which involved top executives in the state taking the plunge. In total, this event raised more than \$200,000!

This year's involvement reached new heights. Below are the details of what Grand Casino's sponsorship brought the organization this year:

- \$42,000: raised by plungers and donors at the Mille Lacs Plunge
- \$3,427: raised by Grand Casino and MLCV Associates



during the popular Denim Days promotion

- \$10,000: donated by MLCV
- \$5,373: raised by Joe Nayquonabe and Tracy Sam to bring to the Executive Plunge

In total, Grand Casino Mille Lacs' sponsorship and MLCV's involvement raised \$60,800 for the organization.

Since the first Mille Lacs plunge in 2012, more than \$223,000 has been raised from this plunge, and nearly 1,200 people have plunged into Mille Lacs Lake — all for a great cause.

Miigwech to all of the plungers who raised money, for all of the supporters who donated money for Special Olympics Minnesota and for the help of local law enforcement (Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police, Mille Lacs Band DNR, Mille Lacs County Sheriff's department, Mille Lacs County Search & Rescue and Mille Lacs Health System Ambulance).





An Afternoon at the Sugarbush

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Tapping the maples is a rite of spring and a rite of passage in Anishinaabe country, and a new generation of Mille Lacs Band members learned the art this season.

During the month of March, Nay Ah Shing students and others had several opportunities to make taps, tap trees, collect sap, process syrup and eat maple sugar at the Izkigamizigan Powwow grounds — named for the sugarbush that has sweetened Mille Lacs life for hundreds of years.

The first step was to make traditional wooden taps. Students cut branches from a stand of sumac at the District I cultural grounds and were taught by the staff how to whittle the taps and hollow out the core.

Next they drilled holes in the trees and gently pounded in the taps — traditional wooden ones as well as some of the fancy metal type.

Sap was collected around the sugarbush by a variety of methods: metal buckets, 5-gallon pails, and plastic bags. Traditionally, birch bark baskets were used to transport the sap from the tree to the fire.

On March 8, a group from Center School in Minneapolis learned that the sugaring season begins with an offering of tobacco to thank the spirits for the sweet gift of the maples. Carmen Butler, an Anishinaabe elder known throughout the region, arranged for the students to come and participate in the maple harvest.

The cultural grounds staff, led by Jim Mitchell, brought them to their camp, where sap bubbled in a black kettle suspended over a hot fire. Quentin Moose and Fawn DeWitt had an ample supply of oak to keep it burning as they watched and stirred the thickening brew.

Whenever the boiling sap foamed up, they used the age-old trick of dipping a pine bough into the kettle, which brought the sap back to a rolling boil.

The unusually warm spring weather made the sugaring season unpredictable this year, but one thing can always be counted on at Mille Lacs: Come early spring, the sugarbush will be buzzing.

Izkigamizigan: The Sugarbush

Aninaatig, ziinzibaakwadwaatig: Maple tree

Ziinzibaakwadwaaboo: Maple sap

Ziinzibaakwad: Maple sugar
Zhiiwaagamizigan: Maple syrup

Negwaakwaan: a tap, a spigot

Negwaakwaanike: S/he makes taps for sugaring

Ozhiga'ige: S/he taps trees.
Nindoozhiga'ige: I tap trees.
Giinawind giga-ozhiga'igemin:

We'll put in the taps.

















Ceremonial Drum Protocol — What to Know Before You Go

Editor's note: This article was originally written by Gloria St. John and published in the April 2002 Ojibwe Inaajimowin. It was based on protocols established prior to that by Mille Lacs Band Drumkeepers. The article has been reviewed and revised by Lee Obizaan Staples.

The Mille Lacs communities of Neyaashing, Minisinaakwaang and Aazhoomog bring their ceremonial drums out every spring and fall. These drums were a gift from the Manidoog, given to help us individually, to assist our families and our Community. This is an opportunity for our Anishinaabe to come in with their offerings of tobacco, food, blankets and money. These offerings go to the Manidoog, giving each of our relatives and us help and assistance. The Manidoog like hearing the sound of these drums and songs across our reservation, since it was a gift to us from them. As each spring and fall goes by, these offerings from the eleven ceremonial drums we have on our reservation collect where those Manidoog sit — and it is from there we receive our help.

The following information is being shared so we know what is expected of us at these ceremonial drum dances:

- You do not need a formal invite to attend these dances.
 These ceremonial dances were given to benefit all Anishinaabe people.
- Your full attention and respect for the speakers at these dances is requested when they talk for our Asemaa (Tobacco) or when explaining other information.
- Please come prepared with your own Asemaa. Show your respect for this ceremony, which has been with us for generations. Come prepared with your own Asemaa and do not borrow it from others. If you wish, you may bring food for the Friday meal offering, and/or the Saturday food offerings for breakfast and the evening. Times for these meals may vary in each community, so ask for details from those attending. You can also bring a blanket as a part of your offering on Saturday afternoon.

- Ojibwemowin must be used when on the floor and speaking to those in attendance. If you are not able to speak
 Ojibwemowin, please offer Asemaa to a fluent speaker who can speak on your behalf.
- Parents are asked to control their children at these ceremonies. Please do not allow your children to run around the drum or roll around on the floor. We were told as youngsters, if we were to fall while running around the drum, we could really get hurt. This is a particularly important time to teach your children to be respectful, especially around these drums. Drum members may step in and ask that your children hold down the noise level or return to their seats. Parents need to remain calm and respectful if this happens.
- When meals are served, please remember that people should eat in the following order:
 - Guests/visitors from a distance. At this time, plates of food can be prepared for those who are disabled or have difficulty walking. If there is a seat open, invite a local Flder
 - Elders/adults from the local area. Parents may also feed very small children at this time. An adult at the table should accompany small children, if at all possible.
 - Older children.
- Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs is asked not to attend these dances. The Manidoog are present just above the area near the location of the ceremonial drum. If there is anyone present under the influence or there is negative behavior at the dance site, the Manidoog will just up and leave.
- Items to be exchanged megwaa Ikwe-Niimi'iding (during the Ladies Dance) are clean blankets, cloth or money. You can exchange a blanket for a blanket; cloth for a cloth or you may just use money. An amount from \$6 to \$10 is considered appropriate. Cloth should always be at least 2 to 3 yards in length, sufficient in size to be utilized toward

- quilt-making later. Cloth should not be offered to Men.
- Local Tribal Governments and others are discouraged from scheduling events on weekends that may conflict with the ceremonial dances. The dances are usually scheduled every Friday evening and Saturdays during the months of April through June and October through December.
- If at all possible, please try to stay until the dance is over.
 A lot of effort and preparation goes into these dances.
 Your presence until the dance is over is a way to show your appreciation for the work that drum members put into these dances. (Of course, Elders can come and go as they please.)
- We are encouraging that people do their cigarette smoking outside of the building due to the harm of second hand smoke and the fact that so many of our people have lung diseases, because of smoking cigarettes. Smoking of the drum's pipe will continue inside as usual.

Ceremonial Dance Dates

Spring 2016

- Merlin & Mick: Mille Lacs April 1 & 2
- Ralph & Andy: Mille Lacs April 8 & 9
- Niib & Iyawbance: East Lake April 15 & 16
- Lynda & Joyce: Mille Lacs April 22 & 23
- Skip: Lake Lena May 6 & 7
- Elmer & AJ: Mille Lacs May 6 & 7
- Lee & Larry: Lake Lena May 12 & 14
- Dale & Vincent: East Lake May 13 & 14
- Joe & George: Mille Lacs May 20 & 21
- Tim & Tom: East Lake May 27 & 28
- Bob & Perry: Mille Lacs June 3 & 4

Spring Spearing and Boating Rules and Regulations

Conservation Officer Anthony Erholtz

Spring is just around the corner, and we at the Mille Lacs Band DNR Enforcement Office would like to talk about our upcoming seasons. As I write this, the sun is out, the weather is unusually warm, and the geese are migrating back north. That means open water is almost here, and so is the spring harvest.

First of all, please remember that if you are going to exercise your hunting, fishing and gathering rights, you need to have the appropriate Mille Lacs Band Licenses/Permit and your Mille Lacs Band Identification card with you any time you are out in the woods or on the water.

If you are out on the water in any type of watercraft, you need to have that watercraft registered with either the Mille Lacs Band or the State of Minnesota, and that watercraft must have a current registration tag along with identification numbers in the proper areas. You also need the proper safety equipment on board. Each watercraft must have one Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) that is in excellent working condition for each person in that watercraft, and it is mandatory that children under 10 wear their life jacket at all times while on the water. Watercraft sixteen feet or longer must have an audible horn or whistle, a fire extinguisher in good working order, and a minimum of one U.S. Coast Guard approved type IV throwable safety device. We at the Mille Lacs Band DNR recommend that every watercraft have a throwable device on board and that everyone wear their life jackets at all times. Between sunset and sunrise, all watercraft must have a minimum of one white light that is distinctly visible under

Reminder: Egg/Milt Collection during Spearing Season

This spring, in response to a Joint Resolution from the Band Assembly and Chief Executive, the Department of Natural Resources will undertake a pilot project to explore the feasibility of a walleye hatchery at Mille Lacs Lake.

Commissioner Susan Klapel's DNR staff will collect eggs and milt (sperm) from this spring's tribal spearing harvest. The eggs will be fertilized in large jars, and once hatched, the fry will be transferred to tanks and then rearing ponds.

If all goes as planned, they will eventually find their way to Mille Lacs Lake and Namachers Lake in District III.

The biologists are looking for Band members to assist them this spring by donating the eggs and milt from speared walleyes. The DNR plans to set up an egg- and milt-collecting station during the spearing season at the landing by the powwow grounds.

If you are interested in spearing near the landing at the powwow grounds and are willing to donate eggs and milt, please contact the DNR at 320-532-7439

clear weather conditions for a minimum of three hundred feet in all directions, and that light must be on at all times while on the water. Remember to check your watercraft trailer to make sure it has current registration and all lights are in proper working order.

If you plan on netting or spearing one of the other declared lakes inside the 1837 Treaty area, you need to know where the designated launch/landing area is. If you have any questions, please stop in or call one of the Mille Lacs Band DNR licensing agents to assist you with a map.

If you are going to be netting or spearing this year, please remember to clean off all visible plant material, mussels or any

other items on your watercraft, motor, trailer, or net. Drain all water-related equipment and keep your drain plug out on all watercrafts while in transport. We at the DNR highly recommend you take the following steps to ensure that you are not spreading aquatic invasive species: 1. Spray all water-related equipment (watercraft, trailer, nets, etc.) with high pressure water; 2. Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for two minutes or 140 degrees for 10 seconds) to kill all zebra mussels and some of the other aquatic invasive species; 3. Dry all equipment for a minimum of three days.

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Gimaji-Doodaag Awiya A'aw Anishinaabe Anishinaabe Has Put Bad Medicine On You

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Gaawiin awiya omaa ningagwe-zegi'aasiin omaa noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Mii i'iw maji-mashkiki waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Ishke dash noongom wenji-misawendamaan wii-tazhindamaan i'iw eni-maji-doodawaad awiya inow owiiji-bimaadiziiman miinawaa eni-dazhindang a'aw Anishinaabe maazhi-doodaagod awiya, geget niwenda-wanishkwe'igon noongom ingiw bebaa-ayaajig omaa ishkoniganing nenaandawi'iwekaazojig, mii-go gaabige enaawaad iniw ba-naazikaagowaajin baa-nandawaabandamowaad isa da-naadamaagowaad mino-ayaasigwaa, "Gimaji-doodaag awiya a'aw Anishinaabe."

I am not out to scare anyone with the topic that I have selected. I am going to talk about bad medicine. The reason I desire to talk about people putting bad medicine on others and about Anshinaabe talking about how others put bad medicine on them, it bothers me that these so called medicine men that we have here on the reservation, they right off the bat tell people that come to them for doctoring, "Someone has put bad medicine on you."

Mii dash omaa wii-ni-dazhindamaan wenji-wanishkwe'igoyaan isa i'iw akeyaa inind a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke a'aw niwawiinge-maamaayiban, mii i'iw gaa-nisigod gii-tebwetang gii-maji-doodaagod inow bezhig inow akiwenziiyibanen. Aana-gii-waawaabamaad iniw mashkikiiwininiwan, mii-go gaawiin gii-naadamaagoowizisiin. Geget gii-mashkawendam gii-anaamimaad inow akiwenziiyibanen gii-maji-doodaagod.

I am going to tell you why I am bothered by our Anishinaabe people being told this. I believe that my mother believed so strongly that one of the old men had put bad medicine on her and it eventually killed her. She would go see the doctors and none of that was able to help her. She really thought strongly in her mind that it was this old man that brought on her health problems.

Ishke dash a'aw bemaadizid mashkawaamagadini eyaang imaa onaanaagadawendamowining. Ishke ani-debwetang miinawaa ani-ayaangwaami-minjiminang isa inendang maazhi-doodaagod awiya, mii imaa wenjikaamagadinig i'iw wenji-mino-ayaasig, mii-go eshkam ani-aayaakozid. Gaawiin odani-ikowebinanziin i'iw akeyaa inendang.

You see people have really powerful minds. If someone believes strongly and hangs on tightly to the idea that someone has put bad medicine on them, it is from there that their health will become worse. They do not discard or part with the idea that someone put bad medicine on them.

Ishke noongom niwaabamaa a'aw Anishinaabe ani-debwetang maji-doodaagod awiya, mii imaa eshkam ani-ayinigaanaagozid eshkam ani-aayaakozid. Ishke dash mii a'aw niwawiinge-maamaayiban gaa-izhiwebizid eshkam gii-ni-aayaakozid biinish gii-nisigod i'iw, gii-mashkawi-debweyendang geget ani-maji-doodaagod inow akiwenziiyibanen gaa-anaamimaajin.

Today I see some of the Anishinaabe that believe strongly that someone has put bad medicine on them, they begin to look more and more pitiful as they get sicker. This is what happened to my mother; she progressed in her illness to the point that it killed her, because she believed so strongly that this old man was out to do her in.

Mii i'iw niin wenji-babaamendaziwaan i'iw maji-mashkiki. Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa niwii-ni-izhi-naanaagadawendanziin da-anaamingeyaan gaabige gegoo eni-izhiwebiziyaan. Naniizaanad igo akeyaa a'aw Anishinaabe izhi-naanaagadawendam. That is why I am not bothered or think about bad medicine. I do not want to think that way to suddenly blame someone for what has happened to me health wise. It is dangerous for Anishinaabe people to think this way.

Ayaamagad ina i'iw maji-mashkiki? Maagizhaa mewinzha gii-ayaamagadidog gemaa. Ishke bezhig a'aw akiwenziiyiban besho gaa-inawemag nigii-wiindamaag odaana-wii-gikinoo'amaagoon inow omaamaayibanen i'iw maji-mashkiki gaa-gikendaminid inow mindimooyeyibanen. "Mii gaawiin", gaa-izhi-inaad. Nigii-wiindamaag idash a'aw akiwenziiyiban, "ani-aabajitood awiya i'iw maji-mashkiki ani-maazhi-doodawaad inow owiiji-anishinaaben obi-azheshkaagon awiya."

Does bad medicine really exist? Probably long ago it existed. There was one old man that I was closely related to that told me that his mother wanted to teach him the bad medicine that she

knew. "No," he said to her. That old man told me, "if someone were to use that bad medicine on someone, it would come back on them."

Mii dash imaa aabiding gii-paa-minikweyaan, mii a'aw bezhig a'aw mindimooyeyiban ningii-nandomig da-bi-wiidabimag, mii dash imaa gii-wiindamawid, "Giwii-miinin i'iw mashkiki ge-aabajitooyan ani-maazhi-doodook a'aw giwiiji-anishinaabem. Ishke dash waa-onji-miininaan, ingii-pi-waabandaan ishkweyaang gaa-izhi-minodoodawad miinawaa gaa-izhi-zaagi'ad a'aw nimaamaayiban." Gaawiin dash ingiiodaapinamawaasiin gayat ingiw gaa-nitawigi'ijig ningii-igoog, "Gego mamooken i'iw meji-ayi'iiwang."

Also at one time when I was out drinking there was this old lady that asked me to come sit with her. It was then that she told me, "I want to give you this medicine that you can use on Anishinaabe people that may have done you wrong. The reason I want to give you this medicine is because I saw in the past how good you were to my mother and showed her a lot of affection." I did not accept that offer from her, because those old people who raised me warned me not to take bad medicine.

Mii gaye iko ingiw Anishinaabeg gii-tazhindamowaad, basikamawind awiya, mii imaa wenjikaamagadinig maazhi-doodawind gaye. Biinish gaye ingii-wiindamaagoo da-naniizaanenimag aanind a'aw Anishinaabe maji-mashkiki odaa-atoon imaa menikweyan baa-dazhibiiyan. Ishke gaye ingiw Anishinaabeg gaa-ikidowaad, mii ingiw mayaazhi-doodawinjig, mii imaa wenjida izhinaagwadinig biimidoonowaad.

Our old Anishinaabe used to talk about walking into bad medicine and that is where something bad was done to the person. I was also warned in my drinking day that there were Anishinaabe that can put bad medicine in my drink. Our old people also said that those who were victimized by bad medicine had crooked mouths.

Mii gaye gaa-izhi-wiindamaagooyaan a'aw bezhig a'aw nitaawisiban imaa agwajing naaniibawid niibaadibik gaa-izhi-waabandang imaa ishpiming ishkode anibabiskaakoseneyaamagadinig ani-bimi-ayaamagadinig.

Na'idaa dash baashkizigan ogii-takonaan, mii imaa gii-paashkizang i'iw ishkode bemi-ayaamagadinig azhigwa gaa-miikwa'ang gaa-izhi-noondawaad imaa gii-noodaagozinid awiya, "YIIY!" gaa-inwewetoonid gaa-noondawaajin mindimooyeng gii-initaagoziwan. Wengish wiin inow ogookomisan baamibizonid gaa-paashkizwaagwenan. Mii dash imaa azhigwa ani-gigizhebawagak, mii imaa gii-noondang gii-chi-aakozinid ogookomisan. Mii gaye gaa-aabaji'aawaajin gookooko'oon naa gwiingwa'on gii-paa-maji-doodawaawaad awiya.

I was also told that one of my cousins was standing outside at night when he saw a fireball flickering by. He happened to have a gun on him at the time and he shot that fireball. As soon as he hit that fireball with his shot he heard an old lady scream out, "YIIY." Here it must have been his grandmother that he shot who was flying by. It was then the next morning that he heard that his grandmother was really sick. They also used owl and whip-poor-wills when they went using about bad medicine on people.

Misawaa-go i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-noondamaan ani-dazhinjigaadeg i'iw maji-mashkiki, gaawiin nimbabaamendanziin i'iw da-ni-anaamingeyaan da-doodawid awiya mino-ayaasiwaan. Mii iko omaa ikidoyaan, "Aaniin danaa ge-izhiikawid awiya nebowa wiin a'aw Anishinaabe odayaan wendami'igod. Gaawiin niin indaa-naanaagadawenimigosiin."

No matter what I have seen or what I have been told about bad medicine, I do not think about it and sit there and blame someone for doing harm to me when I am sick. It is here that I say to myself, "Why would anyone want to bother with me, our Anishinaabe people have plenty on their mind, why would they be thinking about me?"

Nebowa wenaajiwang gigii-miinigoowizimin anishinaabewiyang ge-apenimoyang. Mii iw ge-wenda-apiitendamang, gego wiin i'iw gidaa-babaamendanziimin i'iw mayaanaadak meji-ayi'iiwang. Ishke aanind a'aw Anishinaabe owenipanendaan wii-anaaminged ani-maazhised miinawaa mino-ayaasig. Mii iw ge-ni-ganawaabandang a'aw Anishinaabe, maagizhaa gaye enanjiged, mii imaa wenjikaamagadinig

enaapined maagizhaa gaye de-minik mamaajiisiin biinish gaye ani-minawaanigwendanzig bemaadizid mii gaye i'iw wenjikaamagadinig mino-ayaasig a'aw Anishinaabe.

We have been given a lot of teachings and ceremonies as Anishinaabe that we can rely on. We need to give power to all that positive stuff, and not give power to that which is bad and evil. A lot of our Anishinaabe find it easier to place blame when things do not go right in their life, or they are sick. Our Anishinaabe need to take a look at what they are doing to themselves, it could be the food that they are eating is not healthy for them, or maybe they are not getting the proper exercise, or possibly just not enjoying life can bring about illness.



Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 3: Going Places

This month's lesson focuses on the word for "go there": izhaa. The basic form means "S/he goes there" and can be combined with prefixes and other words to show who goes where, and when. "Iwidi" means "over there."

Ojibwe	English	
Indizhaa iwidi ataagewigamigong.	I'm going to the casino.	
Niwii-izhaa iwidi adaawewigamigong.	I want to (will) go to the store.	
Ningii-izhaa iwidi Aazhoomog.	I went to Aazhoomog (Lake Lena).	
Gidizhaa ina iwidi Minisinaakwaang?	Are you going to Minisinaakwaang (East Lake)?	
Giwii-izhaa ina iwidi Eshkwegamaag?	Do you want to go/Are you going to go to Onamia?	
Gigii-izhaa ina iwidi iskigamiziganing?	Did you go there, to the sugarbush?	
Izhaa Frank iwidi Oshkii-odenaang.	Frank is going to Brainerd.	
Wii-izhaa Frank iwidi Chi-minising.	Frank wants to go/is going to go to Isle.	
Gii-izhaa Frank iwidi Neyaashing.	Frank went to the point (District I).	

Other place names: **Ozaagiziibing** (St. Cloud); **Gaa-zhigwanaabikokaag** (Hinckley); **Mazhii'iganing** (Garrison); **Chi-odenaang** (The Cities); **Onigamiinsing** (Duluth); **Gete-odenaang** (Superior); **Bebashkojiishkiwagaag** (Aitkin); **Asinikaaning** (Sandstone).

A note on place names used in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*

We are attempting to use Ojibwe names as much as possible rather than District I, II, IIa and III. District numbers will still be used on the calendar to save space and may be used in other places for the sake of clarity. We will use the double-vowel system with the following spellings:

- District I: Neyaashing. This word, which means "the point," will be used to refer to the District I or Vineland community. "Nay Ah Shing" will still be used for the school and "Ne-la-Shing" for the clinic.
- District II (East Lake): Minisinaakwaang. The school in District II will be referred to as Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.
- District Ila (Isle): Chiminising.
- District III (Lake Lena): Aazhoomog.



New Wheels for Wewinabi

The wheels on the bus go round and round — all through the reservation. On February 24, 2016, Wewenabi Early Ed received a new bus that will serve the East Lake community. To most it is a big yellow bus used to transport children to and from school, but to the staff and students, it is much more. This bus serves as a connection from home to school and then school to home. It is the child's first interaction of the day with activities the school provides. Besides the driver, there is also a bus monitor on each bus to ensure each child is secured safely in his or her seat. That way the driver can be attentive to the road and traffic and the monitor attentive to the child and his or her needs. Parents and grandparents are grateful to have more adults caring for their children's and grandchildren's needs and safety. So as you pass a bus, remember they carry our most precious cargo, our children and grandchildren.

Spring Cleanup 2016

District I, Vineland

Saturday, April 30, through Friday, May 6

Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day.

All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Old Transfer Station Site off of U.S. HWY 169.

District II, East Lake, McGregor, Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle

Saturday, May 14, through Friday, May 20

Hours of operation:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: East Lake Maintenance facility for District II; Isle Community Center for District II-A.

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley

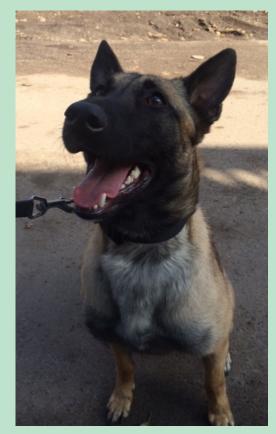
Saturday, May 7, through Friday, May 13

Hours of operation:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Four Plex on Evergreen Dr.; Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino; Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center; the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

Mille Lacs Band Elders in all Districts will receive free curbside pickup for their community cleanup items. Elders must call the Public Works office at 320-532-7433 by Friday, April 10, to be placed on the list for pickup. Anyone receiving curbside pickup must have their pile at the end of their driveway. Please contact Public Works at 320-532-7448 if you have any questions or concerns about the 2015 spring cleanup! Thank you.



K-9 Sparta is the newest addition to the Mille Lacs Tribal Police. Sparta is a Belgian Malinois who is now finishing up her certification training. She will be riding with her partner Officer Cook.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy April Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Roland Lee Anderson Susan Mary Antonelli Dorothy Ann Aubid Terry Louis Beaulieu Jerry Jonas Benjamin Donivon Leroy Boyd Russell Edward Boyd Wayne Theodore Boyd Debra Lynn Ceballos Sharon Lee Chavarria Rayna Joyce Churchill Raymond Charles Daly Wesley Dorr Jr. Rhonda Kay Engberg Nancy Mae Foster Duane Wallace Haaf Gwendolyn Marie Hanold **Douglas Happy** Darryl Vernon Jackson Evelyn Kegg Raymond Kegg Victoria Jean Kroschel Bruce Marvin LaFave Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado Ada Mae Merrill Louis Kevin Merrill Gregory Allen Mishler Bonita Louise Nayquonabe Russell Daniel Nayquonabe Donald John Nelson Gloria Jean Nickaboine Sherry Marie Nielsen Jeannette Oswaldson

Ricky Harold Pardun Gregory Allen Pawlitschek Solita Efigenia Reum Laurie Jean Rogerson Lorraine Diane Sam Darlene Rae Savage Ruth Anne Schaaf George Augustus Sharlow Jr. Perry Don Skinaway Debra Ann Smith Marvin Lee Staples Carmen Marie Tyler Gail Marie Tyson Brandon Lynn Vainio Deanna Louise Weous Duane Lee Wind Eloise Alice Yanez

Happy April Birthdays:

Happy Birthday Bear & **Brandon Stuart Bearheart** on 4/1. Love, Mom! • Happy 9th birthday to Elias Wagner on 4/4, with love from TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Gramma Tammy, Uncle Brandon, Auntie Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy 4th birthday **Lorena** "LoLo" Gahbow on 4/8, with lots of love, hugs & kisses from Mommy, Daddy, Gammy, Benny, Joshy, Sissy, Fred Fred, Tammy, Buzz, & Jerron. ● Happy Birthday **Trina Sasthorse** on 4/9, from Auntie Barb. • Happy

23rd birthday to my beautiful

baby girl, **Lisa** on 4/12. We love you, from Mom and the rest of your family! • Happy Birthday to **Juice** on 4/14, with love from Tammy, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, Ahrianna, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico. • Happy Birthday to **Deb Smith** on 4/15, with love from Tammy, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, Ahrianna, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico. • Happy Birthday to my grandson **Brandon Stuart** Jr. on 4/15, from, Grandma Barb. • Happy Birthday **Lindsay** Sam on 4/20 from Auntie Barb. • Happy Birthday **Nick Sam** on 4/22 from Auntie Barb. • Happy 10th birthday to Sheila Marie on 4/23, with love from Mom, Dad, Joey, Simone, Simon, Mary, Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon. • Happy Birthday **Jada** on 4/24, love the Harrington family. • Happy Birthday **Aiva** on 4/26, love Auntie Val, Mariah, and Kevin. • Happy Birthday Aiva on 4/26, love Dad, Mark, Emery, Gram CC, Gram Karen, Papa

Bear, Uncle Brad, Shelby Max,

Aidan, Jacob, Auntie Val, Pie,

Kevin, Auntie Rachel, Waylon,

Jarvis Jr. • Happy 9th birthday

to **Aiva Doust** on 4/26 with

love from, Daddy, Grandma

Rory, Jarvis, Miranda, and

Tracy, Papa Bear, Auntie Shelby, Uncle Jarvis, Miranda, Jarvis Jr., Jacob, Max, Aidan, Auntie Sharon, Uncle Wally, Melodie, Auntie Maria, Auntie Val, Baby Kevin, Uncle Brad, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Nicole, Jimmy, Buddy, Cordell, Ravin, Auntie Rachel, and Uncle Waylon. • Happy Birthday **Keaona** on 4/27, love the Harrington family. • Happy Birthday to my sister Lu on 4/27, love you! From Anna and family. Happy Birthday to my other beautiful daughter, Priscilla on 4/28. Love you, from Mom and the rest of your family!

Happy Belated Birthdays:

We just want to give a special shout out to Tammy Miller and apologize for not having her birthday announcements for her friends/family. • Happy 5th birthday to Cici Bugg on 3/14. With love from: Mommy, Daddy, Grandma Tammy, Grandma Joyce, Poose, Putin, all of your cousins and aunties. • Happy 4th birthday to Marcus Jr. on 3/16. With love from: Mommy, Daddy, Grandma Tammy, Grandma Joyce, Cici, Putin, all of your cousins and aunties. • Happy 1st birthday Ella Marie

on 3/21. Love Grandma Tammy, Grandma Joyce, all of your aunties, uncles and cousins. ● Happy Birthday **Daddy Marcus Bugg Sr.** on 3/21, from Cici, Marcus Jr., Donnie, Jessica, Ma Tammy, and Granny Joyce.

Other Announcements:

Graduates will be featured in the May and June issues. If you know any Band members who are graduating from high school or college, send their photos to myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com.

Submit Birthday Announcements

is April 15.

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is 20 WORDS OR LESS to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com
or call 612-465-0653.
The deadline for the May issue

Commissioner on Call

Several years ago the Band government had a dedicated phone line for members to call during the weekend. Since that time, all Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters near the monthly calendar.

Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration 320-292-0258

Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration 320-630-7415

Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development 320-630-2496

Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education 320-630-9226

Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services 320-630-2607

Susan Klapel, Commissioner of Natural Resources 320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mental Health First Aid Certification Training

Tuesday, April 26 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

To register go to **clcmn.augusoft.net** or call 218-855-8118.

Grand Celebration Powwow

June 17–19

Grand Casino Hinckley

Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 22-24

New Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) in District II

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

will be held August 19–21, 2016, at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

Kids Crafts: Make a God's Eye April 2, 2016, Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Fee: \$4 per kit (museum admission not included).

Learn how to weave a God's Eye to take home. The decorative designs are used on ceremonial shields of American Indian tribes of the southwestern United States. Allow an hour for the craft. Recommended for children ages 8 and up. For more information please call 320-532-3632 or send an e-mail to millelacs@mnhs.org.

Warrior Nation by Anton Treuer

April 16, 2016, Mille Lacs Indian Museum

Time: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Fee: Free

Come by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post for an author talk and book signing by MNHS Press author Anton Treuer on his new book, *Warrior Nation: A History of the Red Lake Ojibwe*. For more information please call 320-532-3632 or send an e-mail to millelacs@mnhs.org.

ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS SAP-BOILING MOON APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visit millelacsband.com Also see below for recurr Band Assembly meetin	edcircleagency.com or calen/calendar for additional Ming events. In a locations were not available the Legislative branch	ille Lacs Band events			MN Spay and Neuter Assistance Program Aazhoomog Community Center Monthly Veterans Coffee & Treats 8:30-10:30 a.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center	Peacemaking Ojibwe Presentation 10 a.m2:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Youth Powwow Dancers Potluck 12-4 p.m. DI Community Center
Niswi: Three. Nisimidana: Thirty.	4 Abinoojinh: Child. Abinoojiyag: Children.	Onamia Public Schools Parent Committee Meeting 12 p.m. ROC Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. PRIMARY ELECTION DAY!	Aabitoose: It is Wednesday	7 COH Outreach (Urban Area) 11 a.m2 p.m. Urban Office Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m.	8 Bimibatoo: S/he runs. Gego bimibatoonken! Don't run!	9 Urban Elder Luncheon Meeting and Bingo 11 a.m2 p.m. All Nations Indian Church
10 Izhaa: S/he goes there. (See page 13)	Aaniin ezhichigeyan? What are you doing?	12 Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m.	DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center	14 COH Outreach (DII) 9 a.m12 p.m. DII Community Center COH Outreach (DIIa) 1-4 p.m. DIIa Community Center Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m.	15 Niwiisin: I am eating.	16 Warrior Nation by Anton Treuer See p.14
17 Nindanokii: I am working.	18 DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center	COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m2 p.m. DIII Community Center Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m.	20 DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley	MN Spay and Neuter Assistance Program Chiminising Community Center Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m.	Miinawaa: And, also, again	Omaa: Here. Imaa: There.
Wiingashk: Sweet grass	Waaseyaa: It is bright/sunny.	Healthy Heart Class 12-1 p.m. DI Community Center Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m.	DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Band Assembly Meeting 10 a.m. DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake CC	To work independently on Anishinaabemowin, you can use ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.	30 Loom Beading Workshop 10 a.m4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 p.m. Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center

- Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

The First Gift Moccasin Making

Mondays, 4 p.m.—8 p.m. Mpls Am Indian Center — Two Rivers Gallery Seeking community members to join others in creating baby moccasins for Am Indian families at Children's hospitals & clinics of MN. Call 612-879-1700.

Open Gym

Mondays - Thursdays, 5:30-9 p.m. District I Community Center

Tabata Workout Sessions

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center



Wanted: Youth Powwow Dancers

- 6-18 years of age
- Mille Lacs Band Member or direct descendant of a Mille Lacs Band Member

Be a contestant at the 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest

August 19-21, 2016

- Do you love to dance at powwows?
- Would you like to represent your community at other powwows for a year?
- Would you like to be a role model for other youth?
 If yes, you could be a great candidate to run for Royalty.
- Jr. Brave & Jr. Princess: 6-12 years of age
- Sr. Brave & Sr. Princess: 13-18 years of age

Deadline to sign up is August 1,2016, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required hours for cultural activities.

For more information and application packets, please contact: Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486 or Jennifer Ballinger at 320-532-7512.

Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Text Alert System Now Available

At the February community meetings, Commissioners were present to discuss the new text system that is still targeted to begin April 2016. The current listing is for general messages, such as reminders of community events. The lists are separated by district, but if you would like updates of community events for all districts, please indicate so when you call to 320-532-4181 Sara-Janie Miller ext. 4742 or Brandi Smith ext. 7709 — both are employees of Human Resources.

When you call, the following questions, may be asked:

- Do you only want your district messaging?
- Would you like to be on an Elder Band Member alert?
- Would you like to receive closing of government center, clinic, pharmacy & medical transportation alerts?
- Would you like to receive alerts about missing paperwork from other areas such as OMB and Circle of Health who routinely seek annual updates?

All divisions plan to expand upon this service, so please offer other suggestions.

Once the system is set up, you will receive a text that says something similar to: "Thank you for joining!" and you will be asked to accept this group. You will need to respond with a CONFIRM; another text will indicate you have been confirmed. This system will also allow you respond back to the department who generated the text, but you may not be replied to the same business day. If you wish to be removed at any time, just call the numbers previously provided.

Safe Harbor Tribal Summit

Mark you calendar! On May 24–25, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community will host a free conference at Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel to address the sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of Native youth in Minnesota. Featured topics include Working with Survivors, Area Resources and Coordinated Community Response. The keynote speaker is Sarah Deer, a Muscogee Nation member who teaches law at Hamline Mitchell College of Law. For questions, contact Arianna Nason at Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center anason@miwrc.org or 612-728-2026.

Spring Spearing and Boating Rules and Regulations Continued from p.11

Remember we are here to protect Mother Earth, so please do your part and ensure that you leave the land and water in better shape and cleaner than you found it.

SPEARING

This year, as most of you know, there will be no netting on Mille Lacs Lake; however, you will still be able to partake in the spring harvest by spearing on Mille Lacs. Here are a few rules that go along with the harvest method of spearing. As per the treaty code, a "spear" means a pole tipped with a minimum of three barbed tines which are a minimum of 4-1/2 inches long and each tine having a barb extending perpendicular which is greater than 1/8 of an inch. If you have spearing equipment on your watercraft, it is illegal to have any type of net or netting-related device onboard that watercraft. So this means please leave your nets and even your watercraft's landing nets at home or on shore. Only registered band members that belong to the 1837 Treaty area or their immediate family members are allowed to be in the boat while spearing. In the Mille Lacs Indian reservation on Mille Lacs Lake, only Mille Lacs Band Members may harvest fish.

If you are planning on spearing or netting on a certain day or night, you must go into one of the Mille Lacs Band DNR Licensing agent offices and declare what landing you are going to be using by 11 a.m. that day. If you declare a landing and do not plan on being at that landing, please contact the on-duty Mille Lacs Band DNR Conservation Officer as soon as possible to inform us that you are not planning on coming. The landings are closed at 10 p.m. by the conservation officer if no one has showed up at that landing or has made prior arrangements with the on-call conservation officer. If a landing has been declared by someone that day, that landing is open for all Band members to utilize. If you want to go out and harvest that night, you must get your permit from a MLB DNR licensing agent or from a conservation officer, who can issue you one at the landing.

The Mille Lacs Band DNR Conservation Officers would like to wish everyone a happy spring, and we hope that everyone will have time to get out on the water or in the woods in the near future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the following numbers:

Mille Lacs Band DNR Office: 320-532-7439
Mille Lacs Band DNR Enforcement Office: 320-532-7439

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millelacsband.com





Circle of Health Board

Circle of Health Board is seeking new members for a financial board. The board will be comprised of one representative from each district, and two at large. We seek individuals with a strong financial background and skills to be able to make well-informed decisions regarding the financial health of the Circle of Health Program.

The board should meet at a minimum quarterly, and the meetings are rotated across all districts. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration at 320-532-7530. The names, once collected, will be submitted to your District Representative and the Chief Executive, who will then submit names to be ratified.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@
redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. The May issue deadline is April 15.

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VOLUME 18



REMEMBERING ART GAHBOW

REFLECTING ON FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S LEGACY

PAGE 6

BAND MEMBER RECEIVES ENDORSEMENT

BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

OJIBWE LANGUAGE **PLANNING**

PEACEMAKING INCORPORATES VALUES & CULTURE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE BENJAMIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! For the past four years, it has been my privilege to serve as your Chief Executive, and I am so honored to have been elected to serve another four years. Miigwech to every candidate who ran for elected office; politics is an exchange of ideas, and we have wonderful ideas on the table and must now keep the discussion going within government and at the grassroots level. Chi Miigwech to every Band Member who voted in our election, because your participation in the process is what makes our democracy strong.

Over the past four years, we have been faced with many challenges, but together, we have made critical progress in so many areas. We are aggressively and successfully fighting the pipelines that threaten our lands and water. After asserting our sovereignty and insisting that the state listen to us, and after filing a legal motion to intervene, we now have a seat at the table and are a party in the proceedings.

The legal status of our reservation boundary has been affirmed, and the federal government is solidly on our side in our battles with Mille Lacs County.

We overhauled our tribal police department to improve public safety, and just recently convinced the federal government to assume jurisdiction over the most violent crimes on our reservation, and the Department of Justice will now be helping us clean up our reservation.

We have a permanent school in District III and a tribal college; college courses are now offered in every community center.

And after twenty-five years of effort, we have diversified our economy, including the recent purchase of the Big Sandy Lodge and Resort in District II.

Most important of all, we have begun to turn back the tide of the opiate epidemic. Many women are now getting help, and babies who were at-risk are being born healthy.

We have critical momentum going in the battle against opiate addiction. The U.S. Attorney General recently came out with national recommendations for communities fighting

opiate addiction, and our Health and Human Services Commissioner had already implemented nearly every recommendation on that list before it was issued. In addition to our governmental response, the grassroots response from Band Members who are taking on leadership roles has been amazing. With community meetings and grassroots groups taking on these issues, people are speaking out and getting involved to stop the spread of drugs on our reservation.

These are just a few examples of initiatives where we have made progress and have momentum going, but there is so much more work to be done. I'm excited about my agenda for the next four years. We need to advance our 1855 Treaty Rights in the smartest, most effective way possible; we must continue to do everything in our power to get the drug-dealers off our lands and make our communities safer for our families and elders; we must advance and promote programs that protect our children, our elders and ensure that we have quality housing, health and education; and we will continue working to infuse our language and culture throughout our government and communities.

My top priority, however, for the next four years will be advancing the Economic Justice Initiative. The Executive Branch commissioners are already undergoing a strategic planning process to examine our policies, procedures, programs, service, and administrative structure to identify efficiencies that could be applied to reduce government spending. They are looking for overlap across programs where we could be more efficient while simultaneously improving the quality of services provided.

We are also looking at ways we can decentralize Band government and move more programs and services out to the Districts. We need to help those Band Members who can work but are relying on programs to move into employment. This will be achieved through better alignment between our human service programs with our workforce training programs, and in offering a Band Member minimum wage that will serve as a

strong incentive for all who can work to seek work.

Finally, we need to create more jobs for Band Members through identifying areas where we have talents and strengths. I know we have many skilled auto mechanics on the reservation, so I want to see an auto repair business. We are exploring creating a Band Member Art Collective where we could market Native arts/crafts nationally and internationally. And we are in the process of developing programs that support Food Sovereignty through creating Band-owned organic agriculture and livestock businesses to employ Band Members and provide healthy food options

In partnership with the Band Assembly, I believe we can make right-size our Band government, improve services and eventually transfer the savings to our hard-working Band members. Many Band Members work hard every day, often for low wages, making sacrifices for their families and their community but rarely asking for or expecting anything in return from the Band government.

These past four years have brought about amazing changes, and there is more to come if we continue working together. I have been working in tribal government since 1989, when my mentor, the late Art Gahbow, first recruited me as his Commissioner of Administration. I know how to get things done and make change happen, but I also know the real reason for our success has been because of Band Member involvement and activism. The best ideas always come from Band Members.

If we continue to assert our sovereignty and self-governance, utilize the talents, skills and ideas of our Band Members, and rely on our traditions and values as Anishinaabe people, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together!

I look forward to the next four years. Together, in partnership with the Band Assembly and the hard work, ideas and support of Band Members, we will build a future for our children that is prosperous, healthy and strong! Miigwech!

Melini Benjani

Chief Executive Addresses Ge-Niigaanizijig Students

What better way to kick off a leadership class than with a visit from a leader? Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was the first quest to address the Ge-Niigaanizijig Language and Leadership Cohort at Chiminising Community Center on April 17.

Melanie spoke about the importance of education and high expectations. She said her mother had high expectations for her — including the belief that she should go to college. Although it took her a few years, Melanie eventually earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

Her education led to a job as Commissioner of Administration for former Chief Executive Art Gahbow. That job led her to run for the chief executive position herself. "I never thought I'd be the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band," said Melanie. "But sometimes you step into that leadership circle and you don't know where it will lead."

Melanie told the students about the work Art Gahbow, Marge Anderson and other government leaders have done for the Band: fighting for 1837 Treaty rights, creating a Tribal Police force, protecting the boundaries of the 1855 Reservation and battling the Sandpiper pipeline.

She also talked about the Elders who went to Washington, D.C. when Donald Trump was fighting Indian casinos.

Melanie said she has high expectations for the students who have stepped into the "leadership circle" of the Ge-Niigaanizijig program.

"Each one of you has great talents," she said. "There is something very special about you. We all have those traits, and it is our responsibility to find them and use them to help others."

"You're going to be knocked down," Melanie added. "You're going to fail. But that's okay. When you get pushed down, you stand up and move forward. Never let those barriers keep you from succeeding. The key to success is learning to overcome failure. And if you make a mistake there is always someone out there who is willing to help you."

For more on the Ge-Niigaanizijig program, see page 13.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke to members of the Ge-Niigaanizijig language and leadership cohort at Chiminising Community Center

Band Member Endorsed to Run for State Senate

Mille Lacs Band member Chilah Brown of Chiminising (District IIa) was endorsed by Senate District 15 Democrats on April 9 to run for Minnesota Senate.

Band members have served on school boards and township boards, but Chilah is the first to be endorsed to run for the Minnesota Legislature.

Before a large crowd of DFLers gathered at Milaca High School, Chilah shared about growing up in Oklahoma and then coming to Minnesota, where she has settled. She works for the Band as a District IIa Legislative Aid and is scheduled to complete her Master's Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance this May.

In her nomination speech she referred to the ineffectiveness of local legislators at addressing issues related to Mille Lacs Lake, and she vowed to unite people to solve problems. During a question-and-answer period she discussed the return of the walleye on Red Lake as an example of how Tribal Nations and

State Government worked well together to reach a good solu-

After receiving the endorsement she said, "I am honored, and I am up to the challenge," and she presented wild rice to her competition for the endorsement. She said. "I look forward to knocking on your doors and hugging your children over the summer!"

Chilah will run for a seat being vacated by Republican Dave Brown. The endorsed Republican candidate is Andrew Mathews of Princeton.

Also endorsed by District 15 Democrats were Kent Lestrud, a Princeton teacher who will run against Rep. Sondra Erickson in District 15A, and Karla Scapanski, a child care provider and union activist who will run against Rep. Jim Newburger in District 15B.

"With my endorsement, history for the Mille Lacs Band has already been made," said Chilah. "Now it's time to sup-



Chilah Brown spoke at the DFL convention in Milaca on April 9..

port leadership changes to better our communities. In order to seek change for the people, it is extremely important to Rock the Native Vote! Now is the time. Spread the word, tell your family and friends to VOTE Brown for Senate. This is your community too!"

Mille Lacs County Drops Trust Land Opposition

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners voted in March to drop its opposition to the Band's applications to put three parcels of land into trust.

On Tuesday, March 1, three board members went into closed session to discuss the county's appeal of the Department of Interior's decision to grant trust status to the District I Cultural Grounds — known as "the Betlach parcel" — and adjacent lands known as "natural habitat" properties. Commissioners Dave Oslin of Isle and Tim Wilhelm of rural Princeton were absent.

The county had hired attorney Randy Thompson to argue on the county's behalf that the parcel should not be put into trust.

When they came out of closed session, a motion was made by Commissioner Phil Peterson of Milaca and seconded by Commissioner Genny Reynolds of Princeton to direct staff to withdraw appeals regarding Betlach and "natural habitat" properties. The motion carried.

At the same meeting, a motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Peterson to direct the County Attorney to file a "release of lis pendens" on the Sher parcel, a large tract of land on Timber Trail Road where a new housing development and government buildings will be located. The motion carried.

"Lis Pendens" is Latin for "suit pending" and means there is

a claim against the property filed in public records. Releasing 'lis pendens' means the county has dropped its claim.

The Band petitioned the Department of Interior in Feb. 2013 to place the Sher parcel into trust, and the request was granted in September of 2013. The Mille Lacs County Board passed a motion to file 'lis pendens' on the property in December of 2013 after a closed session with then-County Attorney Jan Jude and Assistant County Attorney Mark Herzing.

On Feb. 24 of this year, the board held a special meeting that was closed under attorney-client privilege "to discuss litigation concerning the Sher parcel appeal and TLOA (the Tribal Law and Order Act)." Commissioner Oslin was present by telephone, but Commissioner Wilhelm was absent.

According to the minutes of the meeting, there was "consensus from the County Board for the County Attorney to file the lis pendens release concerning the Sher Property."

The minutes also state, "It was agreed the Betlach parcel appeal would be discussed at a future County Board meeting."

On Sept. 30, 2015, the Band's application to put the Betlach parcel into trust was approved by the U.S. Department of Interior, and on Oct. 29, Thompson filed an appeal on behalf of Mille Lacs County, saying the Band is not federally recognized except as a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Thompson's argument also repeated the county's claim that the 1855 Reservation has been disestablished, and therefore the Betlach and 'natural habitat' parcels, which are within the boundaries of that reservation, should not be put in trust. To put land into trust that is part of a disestablished reservation would be "unconstitutional, unlawful and exceeds the authority granted the Secretary of the Interior," Thompson said.

In 2013, the county hired Thompson to write its response to the Band's request for concurrent jurisdiction under the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act.

In January of this year, the Band's request was granted, and a legal opinion released by the Department of Interior's Office of the Solicitor affirmed the Band's longstanding argument that the 1855 Reservation was not diminished or disestablished.

Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh said, "It is no secret that there has been a long and acrimonious history between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs County. I am convinced that neither party will be able to achieve its goals until we put this history behind us and work toward achieving common goals together. I hope that the county board's decision not to pursue an appeal regarding placing the Sher parcel into trust is the beginning of a new chapter of our relationship that will continue to improve for our mutual benefit."

MCT Certified Results: Chief Executive Wins Another Four-Year Term

According to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's certified election results, and barring any challenges, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has won another four-year term by garnering over 54 percent of the vote in the April 5 primary election. Because she received over 50 percent, no general election is required.

However, there will be a general election June 14 for District I Representative between incumbent Sandi Blake, who received 39.27 percent, and Ginger Weyaus, who was the second-place finisher with 21.65 percent.

According to Solicitor General Todd Matha, three candidates in the Primary Election have filed timely contests, challenging the Election Board's conduct of the election and the certified results. The Mille Lacs Band Court of Appeals will determine the validity and sufficiency of the contests. The Court has issued scheduling orders and will preside over several hearings on May 2, 2016, with a decision by May 12. The Notice of General Election will be published May 13.

There were 848 votes cast for Chief Executive and 522 for District I Representative. In the election for Chief Executive, 390 votes came from Neyaashing (District I), 69 from Minisinaakwaang (District II), 45 from Chiminising (District IIa), 165 from Aazhoomog (District III), 78 from the Urban Area and 101 absentee.

Congratulations to all who competed and milgwech for working to serve the Band.

Thanks also to those who served as election judges or helped transport elders and others to the polls.

Other Reservations

At Leech Lake, Faron Jackson Sr. was elected Chairperson with 52.72 percent of the vote, defeating incumbent Carri Jones. Leroy Staples Fairbanks was reelected District III Repre- sentative with 77.68 percent.

In the White Earth primary, Terrance "Terry" Tibbetts Sr. and Melinda "Mindy" Iverson advanced to the June 14 general election for Chairman, and Barbara Fabre and Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts will run in general election for District III Representative.

At Grand Portage, Janice "Marie" Spry won the election for Committeeman-at-Large with 54 percent of the vote.

In the Fond du Lac primary for Chairman, Kevin R. Dupuis Sr. and Wayne Dupuis advanced to the general election. Vanessa Northrup and Wally Dupuis will run for District I Committeeperson, and Roger Smith and Phillip Savage will run for District III Committeeperson.

At Bois Forte, Catherine Chavers defeated incumbent Kevin Leecy with 51 percent of the vote in the race for Chairman. Karlene Chosa and Travis Morrison advanced to the general election for District I Representative.

National News Briefs

Obama addresses opioids: President Obama addressed the nation's growing opioid problem at the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, stating that tackling the issue should be the federal government's top priority. Obama's appearance was accompanied by new proposed regulations and funding for states to produce and distribute naloxone, the opioid reversal drug. He's also working to triple the funding for opioid treatment, seeking \$1.1 billion in additional funding to help states expand medication-assisted treatment for those suffering from addiction.

Omaha over Nebraska: After two months of deliberations, the Omaha Tribe secured a major victory when the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rejected a challenge to the tribe's reservation boundaries. Justices determined that Congress did not diminish the reservation after opening some areas to non-Indians. While this is a huge win for the tribe and its efforts to assert sovereignty over the reservation, tensions are still running high. The village of Pender contested the reservation boundaries earlier this year because the tribe imposed liquor taxes on non-Indian owned businesses in the community. However, that issue was not before the court, so it remains unresolved.

Tribal schools not left behind: On April 5, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced that 11 BIE schools across the country are eligible for replacement — including the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School. The selected schools were chosen by a committee established under the No Child Left Behind Act, and many are in such bad shape that repairs would cost more than replacement. While the other 10 schools will receive funds for planning renovations, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School has secured \$12 million in federal funding to begin construction later this year.

Howah! The Bush Foundation announced its 2016 Bush Fellows last month and chose 24 leaders who have made significant contributions in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations within those states. Among the recipients are Minnesota's own Susan Marie Beaulieu, Lisa Brunner and Floyd Patrick Jourdain Jr. Beaulieu teaches about adverse childhood experiences in Native American Communities and plans to use her Bush Fellowship to finish her Ph.D. Brunner advocates for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking and hopes to learn more about how other indigenous communities protect and heal their people. Jourdain hopes to use his experiences seeking sobriety to explore how the drum can teach and promote healing in Native Nations.

Caucasians offended: When sports journalist Bomani Jones wore his "Caucasians" t-shirt on ESPN Radio's Mike & Mike show last week, it caused quite a sensation on the Internet. By the time ESPN made Jones cover the shirt, Mike & Mike fans had already begun searching the Internet to find where to buy the parody shirt of the Cleveland Indians logo, which sells for \$22. Search traffic got so high that the shirt maker Shelf Life Clothing Co's website crashed. Jones has since used the attention caused by his appearance on Mike & Mike to draw further attention to the use of Native American names and imagery in sports mascots and logos.

MN DNR Reverses Course on Regulations

In response to pressure from Mille Lacs business and recreation interests, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on March 21 declared a catch-and-release only season for Mille Lacs and a ban on the use of live bait.

On April 7, in response to new pressure, the DNR reversed course, canceling the live bait ban. DNR Fisheries chief Don Pereira said, "The DNR is hearing that anglers are accepting of the catch-and-release aspect of the walleye season, but members of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee heard clear concerns about the live bait restriction, as did the DNR."

The about-face created a stir in the media, the Legislature and around the lake.

Star Tribune outdoors columnist Dennis Anderson took the DNR to task for bowing to pressure in reversing course.

Sen. Dave Brown, who represents Mille Lacs County in the Minnesota Senate, authored a bill to override the DNR's proposal.

And among anglers and resorters at Mille Lacs, there was the usual grumbling.

Last summer, the Minnesota DNR halted the walleye harvest mid-season when anglers reached their quota.

Gov. Mark Dayton responded with a directive to the DNR to make staff changes, create a new advisory committee, consider a stocking program and build a new \$3.5 million fisheries facility at the lake.

The facility would house DNR staff but may also include a fishing museum and hall of fame.

The new advisory group told the DNR they wanted to avoid another mid-season shutdown, which is why the catch-and-release season and live bait ban were proposed.

Even with a catch-and-release only season, anglers could still reach or surpass their allocation due to "hooking mortality," the death of fish that are caught and returned to the water. Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of released fish die, depending on water temperature and other factors.

Fish caught on live bait are more likely to die than those caught on artificial bait because they often swallow the hook, resulting in damage to internal organs.

The Mille Lacs Band made the decision last summer to cancel netting for the 2016 spring season. Other bands followed suit, and little if any netting has taken place this spring, although Mille Lacs Band members have engaged in some spearing.

Although studies by the state DNR and an independent "blue ribbon" panel of fisheries experts have shown that netting is not the cause of a decline in the walleye population, Drumkeepers made the decision to cancel netting this spring to allow the population to recover.

The Band has also built a hatchery to be used for a pilot stocking project. Eggs taken from Mille Lacs walleyes will be hatched this spring, and the fry will be transferred to rearing ponds. If the project is successful, the Band may consider stocking Mille Lacs with walleyes. (See page 11 for more information.)

Overdose Response Training

Brett Larson Staff Writer

In late March, 57 Mille Lacs Band members and employees were trained in the use of naloxone, a drug that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose said the Band's Opioid Public Safety Team is identifying additional response sites and training opportunities.

Training was provided by Marion Larson of Central Minnesota EMS, which received a grant to provide naloxone training around the region.

Marion said heroin deaths across the nation have tripled since 2010, and prescription drug deaths have quadrupled over the last 10 years. She also said there were 750 non-fatal overdoses in Mille Lacs County between 2010 and 2014.

Mille Lacs Band members and government officials have become increasingly concerned about the opioid epidemic since it was learned in 2014 that the Band has a high rate of babies born addicted to opioids.

Overdose deaths are caused by suppression of the respiratory drive, Marion said. Eventually breathing stops, which leads to cardiac arrest and death.

Naloxone (also known by the trade name Narcan) interferes with the opioids' effect on respiration. Naloxone is effective for 45 minutes, so it may need to be administered more than once.

It has no side effects, and allergic reactions are very rare.

Those treated with naloxone may react by showing irritation and other symptoms, but that is caused by withdrawal from opioids, not from the effects of naloxone.

Marion also talked about the signs of opioid overdose, including pinpoint pupils, absent or very slow breathing, blue lips and fingernails, slow pulse and inability to be woken up.

Dr. Donald Gunderson, the medical director at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, said that in his experience pinpoint pupils are the most telling symptom of an opioid overdose.

At the end of the presentation, Marion showed how naloxone is administered by spraying a mist into both nostrils of the person who has overdosed. Participants were then able to practice administering naloxone using test kits.

Some have argued that naloxone encourages dangerous drug use, but Band officials have agreed that it is worth the investment in training if lives may be saved by the use of naloxone.







Top: First responders and other Band employees were trained in the use of naloxone, which can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Bottom Left: Tribal police and first responders others will have naloxone on hand to treat opioid overdoses. Bottom Right: Dr. Donald Gunderson, Medical Director at Ne-la-Shing Clinic in District I.

Food, Games, Prizes at Treaty Day Event

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band celebrates Treaty Day every March to commemorate the day in 1999 when the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Band's right to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty.

Just as importantly, the day commemorates the leaders who signed the Treaty of 1837 and ensured that those rights would remain in effect for today's band members.

This year's event took place on Friday afternoon, March 25, at the District I Community Center.

Hundreds of Band members attended, some of them tribal employees who were given the afternoon off to celebrate the holiday.

DNR employees in blue shirts talked with guests, served boxed lunches, assisted children with games and passed out door prizes. Commissioner Susan Klapel served as Master of Ceremonies (and Santa Claus) for the day.

The event began with an invocation by Terry Kemper and a song by Timber Trails drum group.

Representatives of band programs as well as outside organizations shared information with those in attendance.

DNR Director Rachel Shaugobay, who was instrumental in organizing the event, expressed appreciation to Reeds Sporting Goods for supplying a variety of great prizes.



"A special thanks to our DNR staff, vendors and volunteers who collaborated and worked hard to make this day a success," Rachel said. "The efforts of each of you have brought excellent results. I am really proud of the hard work and dedication we have as a team."





Top: DNR employees Rachel Shaugobay, Susan Klapel and Charlie Lippert spent much of the afternoon handing out door prizes. Left: Wesley and Jennifer Ballinger represented the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission at Treaty Day. Right: Oginii Joseph, Memengwa Sam and Jathan Pierre posed with Smokey at Treaty Day on March 25.

Omaha Tribe Wins Supreme Court Case

On March 22, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Nebraska v. Parker that an 1882 Act of Congress did not diminish the Omaha Tribe's reservation when it opened up lands for settlement by non-Indians.

The similarities between the Omaha and Mille Lacs situations are striking. The Omaha Reservation was established in 1854 and 1865; the Mille Lacs Reservation was established in 1855.

A Congressional Act in 1882 opened the Omaha reservation lands for sale; a Congressional Act in 1889 (the Nelson Act) opened the Mille Lacs Reservation for sale. In both cases, the

Indians were entitled to allotments before any lands were sold.

The Court's unanimous verdict suggests that if Mille Lacs County were successful at bringing the case to federal court (as the county attempted to do in the early 2000s), the Band's argument that the reservation was not diminished or disestablished by the Nelson Act would likely prevail.

Also working in Mille Lacs' favor is a November 2015 opinion by the Department of Interior that the 1855 Reservation is still intact. You can read that opinion at solicitor.doi.gov/opinions/M-37032.pdf.





Quiz Whizzes

Onamia High School's Indian Education program hosted a statewide Ojibwe knowledge bowl tournament on Friday, April 8. Eighteen teams took part, including those from Onamia and Nay Ah Shing.

State and Local News

Fond Du Lac limits harvest: Last month, the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa announced that, for the second year in a row, the Tribe will not exercise its treaty-reserved right to net walleyes on Mille Lacs Lake this year. The Band is authorizing members to spear walleyes on Mille Lacs, with each member limited to two fish less than 15 inches long.

As it should be: A provision in a broader
Department of Natural Resources policy bill has
proposed expanding the rights of tribal members to
harvest wild rice throughout Minnesota. Under the
proposal, tribal members who hold a valid tribal ID
card would be allowed to harvest wild rice without
a license on state-controlled waters anywhere in
the state. The proposal is in response to American
Indian protesters announcing plans to gather wild
rice in Hole-in-the-Day Lake without state-issued
licenses to reaffirm rights they hold under the Treaty
of 1855. Currently, the state requires DNR-issued
licenses to harvest wild rice outside of reservations.

Reservation rap: The first episode of an ambitious new online docu-series, The Score, focuses on Minnesota's American Indian hip-hop scene. The two-part, 18-minute episode entitled "Reservation Rap" explores the music produced by native rappers Baby Shel, Tall Paul and Thomas X among others in the Red Lake Nation. Through their music, the rappers vent their frustrations about the struggles facing the Ojibwe community, including poverty, addiction and mental illness. The Score is produced by Vice Media and Apple Music and can be streamed through Apple Media.

On second thought: A mere three weeks after releasing new fishing regulations for Mille Lacs Lake the DNR has reversed one of the most contested parameters for the upcoming season. When the season opens on May 14, all anglers will be able to fish with live bait. The DNR decided to reverse the live-bait ban following an outcry from anglers and stakeholders. In March, new regulations for Mille Lacs were announced, including a catch-and-release policy and the livebait ban, in an effort to protect the lake's walleye population. Those opposing the new regulations argued that banning live bait would diminish an important part of the Mille Lacs fishing experience. (See page 4 for more.)

Will netters and spearers be included?

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and officials with the nonprofit Minnesota Fishing Museum, Hall of Fame and Education Center are exploring a possible move to bring the museum to the shores of Mille Lacs Lake near a proposed new DNR fisheries facility. Currently the Minnesota Fishing Museum is located in Little Falls, and the hall of fame is in Baxter. The museum contains the state's largest collection of Minnesota fishing artifacts and memorabilia. The hall of fame is dedicated to some of the state's most innovative anglers. Museum and hall of fame officials are interested in combining the entities under one roof at a site on Mille Lacs Lake and expanding into a modern new 42,000 square-foot building.

For regular updates on news affecting Mille Lacs Band members, see millelacsband.com/news.

In 1971, Art Gahbow, far right, gave a presentation at Onamia High School with John Redhorse, Albert Churchill, Ed McGaa, James Clark and James Littlewolf.



In 1981, Art Gahbow (pictured with Doug and Leonard Sam) held a news conference to talk about the Band's new Conservation Code for Mille Lacs.

Happy Father's Day! June 20

WORLDS GREATEST DAD

We think we've got the Worl ds Greatest Dad because he does nice things for everybody. My dad takes us fishing every weekend. Our dad makes us feel good when we feel bad, and helps us understand things we don't. Our dad doesn't only help us, he also helps the people on our reservation. he helped build out ... marina, grocery store, Group home and alot of other things too. he also travels alot and when he comes home, We know he's always glad to see us. he's the president of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and chairman of Mille Lacs Reservation even though he's a busy man he still has time for us. and those are some of the reasons why we think we've got the Worlds Greatest Dad.

On Father's Day in 1976, Art's children sent this letter to the Mille Lacs Messenger.



Art met with many dignitaries during his years, including presidents, governors and tribal leaders. Here he is pictured with Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich.

WEWINABI — Arthur Gahbow

Art Gahbow passed away on April 11, 1991. On the 25th anniversary of his death, Art's friend Don Wedll reflects on his legacy.

Arthur Gahbow would

never have thought that

his life would be part of

all the things Mille Lacs

look at what he did as

a model but would have

what he did was a little

so much more.

bit and that they could do

told the young people that

now enjoys. He would not

Don Wedli Guest Writer Photos courtesy of Mille Lacs Messenger

What do you say when asked to write about someone who was your leader, boss, teacher, colleague, we'e (godfather) to your son, nii jii and friend? How do you describe the importance he had in your life? There is one thing that he always was, and that was "Anishinaabe." He thought about that a lot and what it meant. For him it meant that you could not ride the fence; you had to pick. You could not say, "I'll use this way because it is easier." He had long-term dreams for the Mille Lacs Band. He was a good man.

One personal task he had was to leave Mille Lacs in a better place than when he took over as leader. He saw many changes as the Band's leader. He became the Tribal Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and lost that position. He saw Band businesses fail and his leadership challenged. He saw groups form to overthrow the Band Government. But he held true to Anishinaabe ways and fought to make things better. In his last days as leader, he had set the Band on a path to continue to make progress, and he never gave up.

Wewinabi, Arthur Wesley Gahbow, was born April 26, 1935, on the Mille Lacs Reservation in Minnesota. While

living with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Gahbow, he attended the Vineland Elementary School and Onamia High School. He joined the United States Army and had a fouryear military career, which included a two-and-a-half-year tour of Germany. He returned to the Minneapolis area where he worked as a carpenter until the early 1960s. He was a fluent speaker of Ojibwe and always stated it was his first language. Because of his language skill he taught classes at the University of Minnesota Duluth and assisted in the preparation and development of an Ojibwe language book for the Vineland Elementary School.

On June 10, 1972, he was elected chairman of the Mille Lacs Reservation Business

Committee. He was an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/Mississippi Bands. He was in the second level of the Mide'win and was a drum owner. He belonged to four other ceremonial drums. He was elected Tribal Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and served until 1980. From 1972 to 1991, he was the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Art grew up with his grandparents and his grandfather Dick Gahbow, who was one of the leaders at Mille Lacs before the Indian Reorganization Act form of government took place. He stated that he got to listen to the old men talk about the Reservation and the political processes they were dealing with. He learned traditional Band leadership by observing how these old men thought and how they dealt with problems. All of this became important after he took on the leadership role at Mille Lacs. It was his guide for how he dealt with issues and responded to crises. Over and over these voices of the past would show him the choices to make.

In 1974 I did not know who Arthur Gahbow was. I had applied for a job on the Mille Lacs Reservation to teach math,

and he was the person I was supposed to contact about the job. He was always gone when I called the number to contact him. After numerous calls I felt sure he did not want to talk to me because nobody could be in so many different places. But between being the Chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and then Chairman of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, he was very busy. I got a call in early August that I had been hired to teach math on Mille Lacs Reservation. I quit my job and headed over to work for Chairman Arthur Gahbow. The first year I only met him in passing. He continued to be very busy trying to make things work better.

In 1975 the high school students at Onamia walked out because of racial issues they faced in the school. Chairman Gahbow supported the students and moved to try and improve their education. He directed the setting up of a high school on the Reservation. Everyone on the Reservation worked to make the new school work. This was his first major task after taking office in 1972. Then things started developing in the educational area. By 1978 the Bureau of Indian Affairs had funded what was called a Bureau Contract School. The new school

was called "Nay Ah Shing."

Financial problems were also starting to occur for the Band, mostly due to national inflation. By 1980, an economic depression had hit the country and Mille Lacs was experiencing its effects.

Chairman Gahbow — along with Doug Sam, Leonard Sam and Henry Davis — saw that the problems needed a larger fix than just money. A structural change was needed. They realized that a Reservation Business Committee was not a Band Government and that poverty and oppression were taking a toll on the community. The Band's treaty rights were being ignored, and many dreams were being destroyed. As Chairman he had to lead the way out, and he got support from the old men. He

would also go over and talk with Maud Kegg to get her opinions on issues.

He saw that Band businesses were subject to many factors, but the Band Government was not the best way to run them. He saw the need for a strong Band Government. The other leaders at Mille Lacs agreed and supported the direction, people like Doug Sam, Henry Davis, Marge Anderson, Julie Shingobe and George LaFave. The Band Elders also supported his efforts.

The first step was to reorganize the Band Government — not to consolidate his or the chairman's power but to distribute the power. This was done through the development of the Band Assembly, the Band's Court of Central Jurisdiction and the establishment of Commissioners. With this basis, the Mille Lacs Band Government grew and was better able to perform the functions of a Tribal Government.

He also dreamed of having the state of Minnesota recognize the Band's rights under treaties. He took great steps to have that happen. In 1979 he got the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to establish a hunting and fishing code for the Mille Lacs

Leader of the Mille Lacs Band, 1972 to 1991

Band. Then he was arrested trying to create a case to litigate the Band's rights. He directed the publishing of histories of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Mille Lacs Band's History. The Band established a Natural Resources Department, and he got the Wisconsin Bands to recognize Mille Lacs' rights to hunt, fish and gather under the 1837 Treaty. He pushed to have the state of Wisconsin acknowledge the Mille Lacs Band's rights, and he established a relationship with the Seattle law firm that was the best in ligation of treaty rights issues. Finally, in August of 1990 his dream of stopping the State's interference with the Band's hunting, fishing and gathering rights was submitted into Federal Court.

Arthur Gahbow gave the first State of the Band Address in 1984. This address led Tribal Governments across the country to give State of the Reservation addresses and strengthen their governmental status.

In 1985 he took a stand against the state of Minnesota's position to require the waiver of Band's rights in order to receive state monies. This led to the passage of a State Law stopping the State administration from waiving the Band's sovereignty.

He, along with the Band Assembly, established a Band Court system, the establishment of the Band's flag and publishing of Band Law. This was done over the objections of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He, along with the Band Assembly, developed a series of Band laws to govern and regulate activities on the reservation and within the Band's jurisdiction.

In 1987, at the invitation of Red Lake Nation Chairman Roger Jourdain, he attended a meeting in Kansas City on Tribal sovereignty and Self-Governance. Though the Band had limited resources, he drove to Kansas, stayed in a low-cost hotel and listened and supported the ideas presented. This meeting led to a symposium on tribal sovereignty held in Philadelphia and the start of a new federal policy of Self-Governance. Through his leadership Mille lacs became one of the first seven tribal governments to enter into compacts with the United States Government. The idea that tribal governments would be self-governing and direct their own funding was a fundamental belief of Chairman Gahbow. Through this he wanted an independent corporate structure to operate and develop businesses on the Reservation

One event that David Matrious from District III organized was a meeting with David Anderson, Lyle Berman and Chairman Gahbow. The meeting was about the building of a Casino at Hinckley. This and future meetings led to the development of Grand Casinos — a successful economic tool for creating employment, making money and helping to support Mille Lacs Band members.

Arthur Gahbow would never have thought that his life would be part of all the things Mille Lacs now enjoys. He would not look at what he did as a model but would have told the young people that what he did was a little bit and that they could do so much more.

In his personal life he enjoyed living — from riding on a motorcycle listening to Indian music to meeting with the President of the United States. He drove a black truck with a bug screen that stated "Aut'ee Gahbow" because sometimes he was called that by the old people. He love to visit, sing, and go to pow-wows. The drum and ceremonies were his guide throughout his life. If he could fish or hunt, he was happy. He pushed hard to get to use the Band's treaty rights and would have been so proud of the Band members using them.

At work he treated everyone fairly, but he required you to do your job. He did not care if you were red or white, but that you did your job. That was the first requirement. He loved all his children and tried hard to support them. He tried always to make time for them. In the end he left Mille Lacs a better place. He set a standard and would be so proud of the Mille Lacs Band.









Top and middle left: At the 1988 Crow Fair, Art was dressed in a Crow outfit, with Red Lake Chairman Roger Jourdain, Mescalero Apache Chairman Wendell Chino, and Tom Stillday of Red Lake. He rode at the head of the parade with Crow Chairman Richard Realbird. Middle right: On April 5, 1991, shortly before Art passed away, Grand Casino Mille Lacs opened its doors to the public. Bottom: At the 1990 State of the Band, Art was joined on stage by Melanie Benjamin, Don Wedll and other officials.

Three Band Members Graduate from CDL Training

Brett Larson Staff Writer

April 1, 2016 will be a day to remember for three Mille Lacs Band members — and not because of any pranks, jokes or fooling around. No, Kelly Kegg, Clifford Skinaway and Ben Kegg will remember that Friday as the day they graduated from Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

The training was a partnership between FDLTCC and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. MnDOT is looking to diversify its workforce, so the agency decided to work with tribes to provide training to members.

The training came about quickly, due in part to help from Craig Hansen of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO). On short notice, he found three Band members willing to commit to six weeks of training beginning Jan. 19.

On April 1, it was all over but the testing for Kelly, Cliff, Ben and many new friends from other Anishinaabe bands.

Kelly was joined at the graduation ceremony by several family members. "It's something I've always wanted to do," he said. "I have a passion for it." He's hoping to work in road construction for starters, but he may want to drive over-the-road during the offseason.

Cliff was also supported by loved ones, including his wife Gloria. "It was exciting, enlightening and enjoyable to learn a new trade," he said. He liked driving the 18-wheelers the most, but he also enjoyed the dump trucks. He hails from the Sandy Lake area and was glad the training included a hotel room so he didn't have to commute back and forth to Cloquet.

Clifford said his wife and stepchildren are proud of him, and he encourages anyone who's thinking of a career change to "keep pursuing your dreams."

Ben had to miss the graduation ceremony because he was taking his test, but he pulled up a few minutes later and was congratulated by a contingent of his Mille Lacs family.

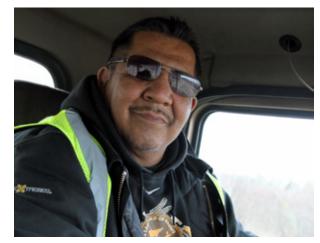
The graduation event began with a pipe ceremony by Jeff Tibbetts, who said his father was one of the first Indian truck drivers to work for MnDOT. FDLTCC President Larry Anderson gave welcoming comments to guests, and Interim Dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Development Patty Petite congratulated the graduates and recognized their instructors. Patty was instrumental in putting the program together.

Craig Hansen thanked Patty and the instructors, as well as the family and friends who made sacrifices so their loved ones could accomplish their goals. "Seventy-three days ago, you started this journey," said Craig. "The next steps are up to you. The road awaits. I salute you for your hard work, dedication and determination."

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke about the importance of education and the significance of their accomplishment. "You're mentors for people back home," said Melanie. "Our young people will say, 'Hey, Kelly did it, so I can too.' You are someone your family members and community members can look up to."

In closing, she gave the universal signal for a trucker to honk his horn, and encouraged the graduates to "Keep on truckin'!"

The graduates didn't wear gowns or funny hats, but they did receive certificates, plaques and handshakes. As a hand drum singer honored them with a song, they feasted on sandwiches and cake before heading home to a future full of new possibilities.





Photos by Tom Urbanski/Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. Top: Ben Kegg was unable to attend the graduation because he was taking his driving test, but he joined friends and family at the luncheon afterwards. Bottom: Melanie Benjamin and Craig Hansen joined Kelly Kegg and Cliff Skinaway at their graduation on April 1.





On March 31 at the Neyaashing (District I) Community Center, District I Rep. Sandi Blake and her staff hosted a "meet and greet" dinner for Onamia School District personnel and families of Onamia students. The event featured an invocation and cultural presentation by Herb Sam. Pictured are Sandi, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe (Onamia Indian Education Coordinator), Bradley Harrington (Chair of the Onamia Local Indian Education Parent Committee), Onamia Superintendent Bert Strassburg, and School Board Member Virgil Wind.

Cobell Scholarship Has New Website

The Cobell Scholarship is annual, non-renewable, and available to any full-time and degree-seeking American Indian or Alaska Native post-secondary (after high school) student attending any nationally, regionally and industry accredited non-profit, public or private institution while pursuing a vocational certificate or diploma, associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, professional degree or certificate. All applicants must demonstrate an unmet need. Find more information at cobellscholar.org

Vision, Strategic Plan Developed for Language Programs

More than 25 native speakers, teachers and policy-makers gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on April 11 and 12 to set a path toward language revitalization in reservation communities.

Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise saw the need for a strategic planning workshop, and she called on Dawn Newman and Beth Glommen of the University of Minnesota's Extension office. Suzanne had attended a session with the two women and liked the results.

The first day focused on developing a vision Band members want to see in place in three to five years, followed by identification of underlying contradictions that are blocking the community from moving toward that vision.

On the second day participants came up with innovative, practical actions to overcome those contradictions, as well as the development of action plans and teams.

The facilitators used a dynamic approach combining individual brainstorming, small group discussion, visual aids, and dramatizations to draw out participants' ideas.

Some of the needs that emerged were:

- Coordination among various programs and individuals
- Financial support for language and culture programs
- A government department dedicated to language and culture
- A self-licensure/certification program that recognizes language expertise
- Roles for those who are unable to pass criminal background checks
- Incentives and/or mandates for employees to learn Ojibwemowin, including time during the work day
- Leadership from elected officials to stress importance of

language and culture

- Media efforts and apps to attract young learners,
- New policies and laws that emphasize importance of language and culture
- Apprenticeship programs to bring learners together with fluent speakers
- Recognition of the importance of preserving the Mille Lacs dialect

Adrienne Benjamin, who works at the Anishinaabe Izhit-waawin Immersion Grounds in Rutledge, attended both days of the workshop. "This was a long overdue process that is extremely vital to the success of Ojibwemowin revitalization efforts here at Mille Lacs," said Adrienne. "We have so much talent here, and it gives me inspiration — currently and for the future."





Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Expands with Acquisition

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) announced in April that it has purchased Big Sandy Lodge & Resort, in McGregor, Minn. The resort is located on Davis Bay, on the south shore of Big Sandy Lake. The sale includes the resort's 18 lodge rooms, seven cabins, fourteen townhomes and one seasonal rustic retreat log home, as well as The Pines Restaurant, The Bear's Den Sports Bar & Grille, and an indoor pool, hot tub and sauna.

According to Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, the McGregor area has been a market that has been on MLCV's radar since beginning its diversification efforts in 2013.

"Our roadmap calls for a mix of hospitality growth in targeted markets as well as acquisitions that allow us to expand the local business economy within all three districts of the Mille Lacs Band reservation," Nayquonabe said. "Big Sandy

Lodge has a reputation as one of Minnesota's premier resort destinations. We look forward to expanding upon the resort's rich traditions by leveraging our experience in hospitality."

Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, said that Big Sandy Lake is so important to the regional economy, but it is more than that for the Band. "We have a long history with Big Sandy Lake, and it is actually a very sacred place for Anishinaabe people, so this acquisition was a perfect match for more than just business reasons. We are delighted to join the families of resort owners on Big Sandy Lake and honored to host the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener this year with Gov. Mark Dayton."

MLCV made the decision to acquire Big Sandy Lake Lodge & Resort based on its strong performance and its unique position as a premiere up-north destination resort on the Big Sandy

watershed. No immediate changes are planned, but MLCV will monitor business operations and look for opportunities to improve efficiency and profitability over time. The property will be managed by LHR Hospitality.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II Representative David "Niib" Aubid said he was pleased to see the local investment in the community. "Today signifies an important milestone in District II. This investment will create job opportunities for our District. It's a well-known resort, and we are excited to be a part of the McGregor resort community."

Big Sandy Lodge & Resort will be hosting the 69th Annual Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener from May 12–14, 2016.

Special programming celebrating the acquisition of the lodge is being planned.





Batterers' Intervention Program Aims to End Domestic Violence

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

There was a time when no one talked about domestic abuse — Not the person who was abused, not the abuser — nor was it openly discussed in public.

Those days are long-gone, but the problem is not. In fact, it's often widely known by families, extended families and others that abuse is happening and who it's happening to.

It's an issue that crosses all lines — social, economic and cultural. It sometimes happens to Band members and is sometimes caused by Band members. One Band program that is addressing the problem is the Batterers' Intervention Program, which is part of the Behavioral Health division of the Health and Human Services Department.

"Started two years ago with funding from a grant, the program's mission is to end domestic violence in the community through education, awareness and social change," said Desiree Montonye. Desiree facilitates the program with co-facilitator and case manager Kate Kalk.

"Unfortunately, in Mille Lacs County, Band members make up six to eight percent of the population but on average they represent 50 percent of the domestic violence felony cases," Desiree said.

Felony charges can result if a weapon is used, strangulation occurs, or a perpetrator has multiple offenses.

Those who participate in the program have been ordered to attend by the county or tribal court or it could be a condition of their probation or parole. The group meets for two hours each week for 28 weeks. Participants are 18 years and older.

The program addresses 10 key areas: nonviolence, non-threatening behavior, respect, trust and support, honesty

and accountability, responsible parenting, shared responsibility, economic partnership, sexual respect, power and control, and negotiations and fairness.

"It teaches offenders to understand belief systems and that it's not drugs, alcohol or mental health that causes them to abuse," Desiree said.

In the first six months of the program, there were 33 referrals. In the first year, 49 referrals were made, and 10 people successfully completed the program. Since January 2016 there have been 28 referrals to the program, and 12 men and women are currently enrolled.

The program was created to keep women safe, though there are women who are abusers, too.

Still, according to statistics, women make up the higher percentage of abuse victims. Violence is considered an epidemic in Indian Country.

"Native women feel isolated. There's family isolation, and they are told not to tell. Or they might be threatened if they do tell," Desiree said.

The Batterers' Intervention Program works with the Band's Family Violence Prevention Program as needed. The collaboration gives victims of domestic abuse options for getting help while maintaining safety and confidentiality.

The primary goals of the Batterer's program are to increase the safety of women and children and to return to the belief that women and children are sacred and worthy of protection. It is also to hold the perpetrator accountable for changing patterns of behavior, thinking and beliefs.

There are two groups for men and one women's group in

District I. A group in District III is being created.

"Our hope is that they don't re-offend and they change their behaviors, but we have had people who have been ordered to come back."

There are others who are success stories. One man who participated has trained to be a co-facilitator in the program. He said he wanted to give back to the community and was grateful for the lessons he learned.

Desiree said she tells the participants that if they want to change their lives and do things differently they can find a place in the community or through the program that will allow them to give back.

Being in the program is a lot like participating in a chemical dependency treatment program — "They have to be ready."

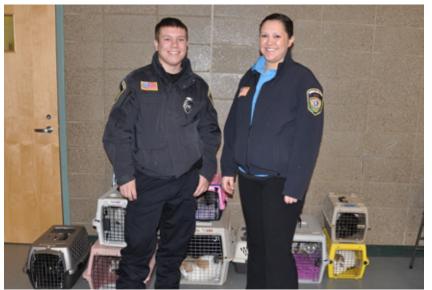
The free program offers other benefits, too, like finding resources, involving peacemakers and connecting participants with Elders. The program also relies on cultural teachings and practices.

What's discussed in the meetings remains confidential unless someone makes a threat to hurt someone.

The grant that funds the program ends in the fall, but Desiree is hopeful that the program will receive another grant or additional funding because the need is so great.

"Violence affects everyone in a household," she said. "I know it's an ugly topic and no one wants to talk about it, but talking about it can help it stop. Some people don't know it's happening to the degree that it is.

"This program holds people accountable," she said. "Friends, family and neighbors can hold offenders accountable."



Chiminising Vet Clinic

Twenty-nine dogs and cats were treated at Chiminising **Community Center April 21 by** the Minnesota Spay and Neuter **Assistance Program. Community Service Officers Spencer Stack** and Bren Fletcher (pictured) were on hand to register pets. The Band is encouraging pet owners to register their pets. In District I, bring proof of vaccinations to the Tribal Police Department. You'll just need to fill out and sign a form. In other districts, email bren.fletcher@millelacsband. com or call the Tribal Police to arrange registration.



Thanks to a grant from CVS. Band members can now dispose of expired or unwanted medicines in the lobby of the Tribal Police office in the lower level of the District I government center. Disposing of unwanted medications can help keep the community safe by reducing prescription drug abuse and protecting the environment. Chimiigwech to the Tribal **Police Department for** securing this grant!





Veterinary Clinic in Aazhoomog

The Minnesota Spay and Neuter Assistance Program (MNSNAP) has been making the rounds of Mille Lacs Band districts providing free services to Band members. Vets came to Aazhoomog on April 1 and Chiminising on April 21, and the organization is also planning a visit to Minisinaakwaang. Miigwech to the Tribal Police Department for arranging these clinics. Pictured are Weylin and Tiffany Davis with Lucy, and Judy Swanson with Molly.

Peacemaking Incorporates Ojibwe Values and Culture

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

After working with many people who didn't understand the seven Ojibwe values and how they relate to culture, it became apparent to Tribal Court Peacemaker Laurie Vilas that change was needed.

Laurie has vast experience in the peacemaking process, and she understands why culture matters in the process. She discussed her experiences with Court Administrator Gilda Burr and Terry Kemper, and an idea was born. Terry works in the DNR's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and he teaches classes on Anishinaabe culture.

They decided to offer six peacemaking and cultural presentations in the districts and urban area that would help people better understand how those things go together and why they are important.

Infused with humor, patience and reverence, the presentations focused on cultural values, circles, smudge and pipe ceremonies, drums and sweat lodges.

At the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis, the presentation was held the first Saturday in April. Laurie and Terry, who work for Tribal Courts to assist in family law cases, led the four-hour session.

It began with a prayer, smudge and pipe ceremony. Laurie

told the attendees that those things "help people center themselves" and prepare for what is to come.

During her presentation she talked about the importance of circles, facilitators and the cultural relevance of them. She explained how they could be used in many different ways including for support, conflict or healing.

"People go to circles to help each other," she said. "We never force people to do it; they have to want to do it."

"As Native people, when we know this and when we believe this it helps us," said Laurie. "When we know this we're rich in life."

Laurie also discussed the seven Anishinaabe values— Debwewin, Zoongide'ewin, Maanaji'idiwin, Gwayakwaadiziwin, Zaagi'idiwin, Nibwaakaawin and Dabasendizowin.

The participants — both Band members and employees — also heard about symbols and how they are important to the Anishinaabe.

Terry, who is a Band member, told the group that, "we bring this back to the people to teach the people.

"I want to leave you with the heartbeat of our people and prayer...I want to focus on our strengths."

Terry, who led the group in singing and the drum, encour-

aged hands-on interactions. He had both the men and women take turns singing and had each group sit on the drum.

He masterfully eased their apprehensions with his humor and laughter — even when they were out of sync with the drumming or held the drumstick the wrong way.

"The power of the drum can take us back to before we were born. The beat of the drum touches our heart."

Terry also had a table full of medicines and tools and told the attendees to pick up the medicines, to smell them and to touch the items he set out.

"We want you to know our connection to healing is out there," he said. "Cultural awareness is out there.

"We're trying to let our people know this is available to you," he said when asked about the presentation.

"Take them, learn from them. We do these things and we can come together."

Before the day was over, the peacemakers reminded the group that the Anishinaabe are a seven generations people who look seven generations ahead

"The world is looking to us for healing," said Terry. "We want to encourage our people to learn their own song. Some people have their own song, and it's powerful."







Left: Attendees examine traditional medicines on display during a peacemaking session held at All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis. Center: Laurie Vilas sings while Terry Kemper drums. Right: Peacemaker and Band member Terry Kemper explains how traditional medicines are used.



Absentee Ballot Request Form Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe General Election June 14, 2016

I am requesting an Absentee Ballot for the June 14, 2016 General Election and acknowledge that I meet one of the MCT Election Ordinance criteria to receive an absentee ballot:

(1) I live outside the reservation boundaries;

(2) live within the reservation boundaries, but I will be absent from the reservation on Election Day; or (3) live within the reservation boundaries, but am physically disabled or too ill to vote in person

My full name, which I am enrolled under, is:		
Name:		
Enrollment Number	Phone Number	
Please send my Absentee Ballot to:		

District selected for voting purposes: (Please Choose 1) District 1 - Nay ah shing

Please mail or fax Request for Absentee Ballot form to:

ATTN: Deanna Sam, Election Judge Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe General Election Board Onamia, MN 56359-0087 Telephone: (320) 532-7586 or 800-709-6445 ext. 7586 Fax: (320) 532-4782

ZIP

For of	fice	use	only	
In Per	son			

Signed

By Mail

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Sandpiper Meetings Planned

The Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a series of meetings regarding the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines, which would cross the Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds in the District II area.

Band members and the tribal government have stood in opposition to the pipelines since they were first proposed. The proposed pipelines would transport oil from the Bakken region in North Dakota and the Alberta "tar sands" through Minnesota to Superior, Wisc.

The 12 scoping meetings, which include presentations on the project and opportunities for public comment, began April 25 at Tobie's in Hinckley from 6 to 9 p.m. The final meeting is May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at East Lake Community Center in Minisinaakwaang (District II). Other times and locations (which are not near the Band's districts) are available on the Band's website (see below).

Minnesota Administrative Rules state: "The scoping process shall be used before the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to reduce the scope and bulk of an EIS, identify only those potentially significant issues relevant to the proposed project, define the form, level of detail, content, alternatives, time table for preparation, and preparers of the EIS, and to determine the permits for

which information will be developed concurrently with the EIS."

Written comments will be accepted through Thursday, May 26, 2016 online or by mail.

- Online: sandpiperline3.us.
- Email: Pipeline.Comments@state.mn.us.
- U.S. Mail: Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul MN 55101. Fax: 651-539-0109.

Comments will be made available to the public via the PUC's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions. Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (Sandpiper: PL-6668/CN-13-473 and PPL-13-474, Line 3: PL-9/CN-14-916 and PPL-15-137) in all communications.

For more information, go to bit.ly/1S93KLE.

Band members are encouraged to attend the scoping meeting at East Lake (Minisinaakwaang) Community Center May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to learn about the project and share their opinions.





Jiibenaakeng Remembering Our Relatives Who Have Passed On

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Mii dash o'ow noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan, mii i'iw Anishinaabe ezhi-wiindang jiibenaaked awiya. Mii i'iwapii wiisiniwin ani-atood ani-mikwenimaad inow odinawemaaganan gaa-aanjikiinijin. Mii-go gaye giishpin inendang a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go gaye inow odayi'iimaanan, maagizhaa gaye opwaagaansan, maagizhaa gaye biindaakwaanan da-niindaa'aapan inow odinawemaaganan gaa-wani'aajin.

What I am going to talk about today is what the Anishinaabe calls Jiibenaakeng. This is when food is put remembering our relatives that have passed on. If the Anishinaabe so desires items of clothing, cigarettes, or snuff can be sent to their relative that they have lost.

Gaawiin ganabaj nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogikendanziin o'ow bakaan eni-izhi-gaagiigidong wiisiniwin naa-go anooj waa-niindaa'aad inow odinawemaaganan bimi-giizhigadinig. Ishke maa giizhiganikeyang giinawind, mii ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig niibaa-dibikokewaad. Ishke dash omaa ani-ganoodamaaged awiya, mii i'iw iwidi ani-apagizondamawind a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad genawenimaad gidinawemaaganinaanan iwidi eyaanijin biinish gaye ani-apagizondamawimind inow odooshkaabewisiman.

I think that a lot of our Anishinaabe do not know that there is a different way of talking when food and other items are put during the day for their relatives that have passed on. When it is daylight here for us it is nighttime over there for our relatives that have passed on. When someone does the talking for this feast he offers up the tobacco to the Manidoo and his helpers over there that takes care of our relatives.

Ishke dash o'ow giizhiganikeyang omaa akiing, mii i'iw ezhichiged a'aw Manidoo iwidi eyaad, obi-izhinizha'waan odooshkaabewisiman da-bi-naadinid i'iw wiisiniwin awegonen igo eni-atamawaad inow odinawemaaganan eyaanijin iwidi a'aw Anishinaabe. Mii dash ingiw oshkaabewisag obi-naadinaawaa i'iw omaa a'aw Anishinaabe naanda'iwed. Ishke dash azhigwa giizhiganikewaad iwidi, mii iw ani-wiindamawind mekwenimind, mii dash gakina inow odinawemaaganan gaa-odisaajin biinish gaye gaa-odisigojin da-odaapinamowaad gaye wiinawaa i'iw wiisiniwin naa gaye awegonen igo naanda'iweng.

When it is daylight here on Earth for us, what that Manidoo over there does is send his helpers to come get the food and any other offering that Anishinaabe is sending to their relatives. It is the helpers that come to pick up the food that is being sent over there. When it is daylight over there, the relative over there is told that he/she is being remembered, along with that his relatives that were over there when he arrived and any that came later share in the meal with him and share any other items that were sent over there.

Ishke dash mii i'iw wenji-mikwendamaan ezhi-gaagiigidong a'aw nizigosiban Nechiiyawaasangoban, mii a'aw gaa-pi-gaagiigidod i'iwapii bimi-giizhigak gii-atooyaang i'iw wiisiniwin, mii dash i'iwapii nigii-mikwenimaanaan a'aw niwawiinge-maamaayiban Ajidawaashiikweban. Ishke dash megwaa imaa ani-gaagiigidod a'aw mindimooyenyiban abinoojiinyag imaa gaa-ayaajig apii, mii dash

imaa gii-waabamaawaad awiya bi-zaagewenid aasamisagong. Mii dash gaa-izhi-wiindamawag a'aw nizigosiban, "Geget giwawiingez gaagiigidoyan." Mii dash imaa gii-wiindamawag, "Ingiw abinoojiinyag omaa eyaajig ogii-waabamaawaan awiya gii-pi-zaagewenid gii-mookinaagozinid imaa aasamisigong, mii inow iidog gaa-waabamaawaajin ingiw abinoojiinyag inow oshkaabewisan gaa-pi-izhinizha'igaazonijin da-bi-naadinid i'iw wisiniwin.

The reason that I remember this talk so well is that we had asked my aunt Mary Benjamin to talk for the food that we put during the day remembering my biological mother Nancy Staples. While that old lady was talking the children that were there saw someone come through the wall. It was then that I told my aunt, "You sure do an excellent job in talking." I continued to tell her, "The children here saw someone appear and come through the wall. It must have been the helper that was sent over to come get the food that these children saw."

Ishke nimbi-noondawaag iko ingiw Anishinaabeg ani-dazhindamowaad i'iw wiisiniwin achigaadeg maa bimi-giizhigak, mii imaa ani-dazhindamowaad azhigwa gaa-kiizhi-naabishkaageng i'iw wiisiniwin imaa echigaadeg, mii imaa booch enigaagiigidong da-nandodamaageng da-bi-azhenizha'igaadeg iniw boozikinaaganan maagizhaa gaye akikoog gii-atemagak i'iw wiisiniwin gaa-niinda'iweng. Gaawiin niin i'iw akeyaa nigii-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoosiin gaawiin wiika nimbi-noondawaasiig Anishinaabeg i'iw akeyaa da-izhi-gaagiigidowaad.

I have heard Anishinaabe say that when food is put during the day, once everyone has finished eating the food that has been put that someone has to talk asking that the bowls or the kettles that were used as containers for the food be sent back to us. I have not been taught this nor I have not heard Anishinaabe talk in that way.

Ishke a'aw mindimooyenyiban Amikogaabawiikweban ingii-waawiindamaag, ishke dash a'aw Anishinaabe ozhiitaad miinawaa jiibaakwaadang i'iw wiisiniwin gegoo igo menidoowaadak imaa wenjikaamagak imaa ozhiitaad. Ishke dash mii iwidi eni-izhaamagak i'iw menidoowaadak, mii dash i'iw ani-moozhitoowaad ingiw gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig ani-gikendamowaad dash mikwenimindwaa. Ishke ninoondawaa a'aw Anishinaabe ani-dazhindang, bakadewag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gaawiin sanaa ganabaj dabakadesiiwag gidinawemaaganinaanig iwidi eyaajig. Gidaa-mikwendaamin Gaagige-minawaanigoziwining ezhiwiinjigaadeg iwidi. Gaawiin da-minawaanigozisiiwag qiishpin bekadewaaqwen iwidi.

That old lady Julie Shingobe had told me that when Anishinaabe prepares and cooks this food there is some sort of spiritual energy that comes out of this gesture of sending food over there. It is this spiritual energy that goes over to where our relatives are. It is this spiritual energy that they feel and tells them that they are being remembered. I have heard Anishinaabe say that our relatives over there are hungry. There is no way that our relatives are hungry over there. We have to remember that the place that they have gone onto is called "The Land of Everlasting Happiness." They would not be happy if they were hungry over there.







Royalty Potluck

The District I Izkigamizigan Powwow committee hosted a potluck for the current royalty on April 2. Back: Senior Brave Nolan Perkins and Senior Princess Sierra Edwards. Front: Junior Brave Shawn St. John and Junior Princess Ava Gahbow. For information about becoming a contestant in the 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Royalty Contest, please contact Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486 or Jennifer Ballinger at 320-532-7512. Deadline to sign up is August 1,2016, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required hours for cultural activities.

Ge-Niigaanizijig Kicks off with Banquet

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Ge-Niigaanizijig language immersion and youth leadership program recognized new participants March 30 at a banquet at Eddy's in District I.

In December, the Ge-Niigaanizijig program received a twoyear, \$253,848 language revitalization grant from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

Students submitted applications during the winter and were chosen after review and scoring by impartial judges. Names were removed from the applications to ensure an unbiased selection process.

Niigaan program director Byron Ninham welcomed participants and their families, who were treated to a buffet dinner before the program commenced.

Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise was the featured speaker. She shared a message of hope for success in education and beyond. She told her story about going off to college as a young woman and encouraged students to recognize the support systems and assets in their lives, including family, friends and mentors who care about them.

"Another asset we have is our relationship with Manidoo," said Suzanne. "We need to ask for help. We all need it, no matter how old we are."

After Suzanne's speech, Byron introduced the program leaders in attendance, including Larry 'Amik' Smallwood, Waabish-

kigaabaw (John P. Benjamin), Adrienne Benjamin, Laurie Harper, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, Joe Regguinti and Alex Kmett.

Adrienne said she came up with the idea for the program when she was part of a Native Nations Rebuilders cohort. "It was a program like this, and I realized I was 30 years old and just getting started learning my language and leadership skills. This is my dream, and it's coming true today."

Laurie asked family members to follow up with the students after each session to show their support for the program.

Waabishkigaabaw talked about how he became interested in learning and teaching the Anishinaabe language, and he gave the students their first homework assignment. "I'm going to do my best to teach you guys how to speak awesome like me," he said, drawing laughter and cheers from the crowd.

Byron asked the families and students to acknowledge his fellow leaders. "They are true rock stars," he said. "They love the language, and they want to help the kids in the community."

As each student's name was called, the crowd applauded and the program leaders welcomed them with smiles and handshakes.

It was an evening of celebration and fun, but Byron reminded the students that they'd be getting down to business April 17 at Chiminising Community Center. "It's going to be a big undertaking," he said, "but we're going to be here for you."





Left: Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise gave a message of hope to the students and their families. Right: Twenty-six students chosen to participate in the Ge-Niigaanizijig program were welcomed at a banquet in District I March 30.

and availability.

Spring Cleanup 2016

Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day.

All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille

Lacs Band Old Transfer Station Site off of

District II, East Lake, McGregor,

Minnewawa, Sandy Lake and Isle

Saturday, May 14, through Friday, May 20

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations:

East Lake Maintenance facility for District II; Isle

Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations:

located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Hinckley Casino; Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center; the cul de sac at Wise Owl.

Four Plex on Evergreen Dr.; Earthworks building

The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the Inaajimowin newsletter, millelacsband.com, and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos, or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education

District III, Lake Lena and Hinckley

Saturday, May 7, through Friday, May 13

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Community Center for District Ila.

District I, Vineland

U.S. HWY 169.

Hours of operation:

Hours of operation:

Reporters Wanted

Now through Friday, May 6

Here are a few other useful phrases to learn this month:

- Awegonen waa-minikweyan? What do you want to drink? - Niwii-minikwen nibi. I want to drink water.
- Other drinks: niibiish (tea), doodooshaaboo (milk). makade-mashkikiwaaboo (black medicine water — coffee), menwaagamig (pop), mishiiminaaboo (apple juice).
- Awegonen waa-miijiyan? What do you want to eat?

Here it gets a little complicated, because some foods are inanimate and some are animate, and you use a different verb for each.

- Inanimate: Niwii-miijin naboob. I want to eat soup.
- Animate: Niwii-amwaa bakwezhigan. I want to eat bread.
- Inanimate foods: dekaag (ice cream), wetotwaag (Jello), waawan (egg), manoomin (rice), odoskwanensan (macaroni), waabi-manoomin (white rice), wajepanjiganish (fast food, picnic), ozhaashaa-manoomin or daataagwa'igan
- Animate foods: bimike'igan (pizza), bakwezhigaans (cookie, cracker), wiishkobi-bakwezhigan (cake), opin (potato), napodin (dumpling), wezaawiminagizid (orange), mishiimin (apple).

Remember to practice on your own or with friends and family, or attend a language table in your district or the urban area.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 4: The Introductory Speech

Waabishkigaabaw indizhinikaaz. John indigoo. Awaazisii indoodem. Misizaaga'iganing indoonjibaa.

That is the basic introductory speech you will often hear around Anishinaabe country. Here is the translation:

- Waabishkigaabaw indizhinikaaz. My name is Waabishkigaabaw.
- John indigoo. They call me "John."
- Awaazisii indoodem. My clan (doodem) is Bullhead (awaazisii).
- Misizaaga'iganing indoonjibaa. I am from (onjibaa) Mille Lacs (Misizaaga'iganing).

Fill in your name, clan, and home, and you'll be ready to introduce yourself. And listen for the words next time you hear someone introduce himself or herself in Ojibwemowin.

INAAJIMOWIN MAY 2016

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy May Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Gina Louise Anderson Merlin Anderson Richard Dean Anderson Alvina Mae Aubele Elisse Joanne Aune Brenda Lee Beaulieu Gerald Duane Beaulieu Robert Patrick Benjamin Jr. Kevin Duane Boyd Maurice James Boyd Denise Lorette Chamblin Debra Ann Contreras Anthony Joseph Davis James Daniel Davis Jr. Virginia Joyce Davis Dale Wesley Day Edna Mae Day Winona Evens Beverly Gay Fairchild Lorraine Farah Sharlene Anita Fisher Dale Allan Garbow Geraldine Ann Germann Harry Lee Granger Gary Lynn Haglund Gertrude Inez Hanson Robert Lewis Heinze Allen Wayne Hemming Terrance John Hendren

Molly Sam Judkins Clarabel Kruse Cynthia Lee Lester Ramona Lynn Martin Mitchell Lee Matrious Dominic Walter Mayotte Janelle Arlene Meehl James Roger Mitchell Pauline Veryl Mitchell Lawrence Leonard Moose Ardith P. Morrow Lorraine Marie Nickaboine Donald Eugene Olson Betty Jane Quaderer Patricia Regguinti Frederick Raymond Shingobe Geraldine Marie Shingobe Victoria Lea Smith **Eugene Raymond Staples** Beverly K. Sutton John Sutton Victoria Joy Verkennes Herbert Weyaus Sarita Inez White Theresa Marie Williams Larry James Wind

Happy May Birthdays:

Ginette Marie Zustiak

Happy birthday to my twin sister, **Cassandra Garbow**, from her twin sister, Crystal, and her niece Leighnah. •

Happy birthday **Jarvis** on 5/5 love, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, mom, Gram Karen, Uncle Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kevin, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Brad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Brynley, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Sharon, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday **Shel** on 5/9 love, mom, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Gram Karen, Uncle Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Jarvis, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Brad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Brynley, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Sharon, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday Mark on 5/12 love, Dad, Aiva, Debreanna, Emery, Gram Tracy, Gram Karen, Uncle Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kevin, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Jarvis, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, Brad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Brynley, Jay, Missy, Guy, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Randi, Rachel, Waylon, Sharon, Ravin, and Melodie. • Happy birthday BR on 5/12, love your

brothers and sissys. • Happy birthday Richard and Rachel **Shaugobay** on 5/14. From Mom, Railei, Kelia, Candance, Cyrill. • Happy birthday **Papi** on 5/17, love, Mami. • Happy Birthday **Dad** on 5/17, love Deshania. • Happy birthday Brynley on 5/26, love, Dad, Melissa, Brae, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bianca, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Randi, Uncle Jay, Taylor, Adam, Auntie Rachel, Waylon and Rory. • Happy birthday **Val** on 5/27, love your Sissys and Brothers. • Happy Birthday **Mom** on 5/27, love Pie & Kevin. • Happy 12th birthday to **Maysun** on 5/27, love from mom, Selena, Dante, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon. Happy 15th birthday to Romeo on 5/28, from Mary and Kids. • Happy birthday Cyrill Boyd on 5/29, from Candance, Ernie and Grandma. • Happy birthday Maria on 5/31, love,

Jr., Drel, Boo, Sissy, Raysean, May, Auntie Randi, Uncle Brad, Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Uncle Jay, Missy, Tough Guy, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Karen, Auntie Tracy, Shel, Max, Aidan, Jacob, Jake, Aiva, Mark, Debreanna, Emery, Jarvis, Jarvis Jr., Miranda, Auntie Sharon, Wally, Ravin, Melodie, Auntie Nicole, Buddy, Cordell, Jameson, Auntie Micki, Uncle Phil, Nadine, Charlotte, Cory, Carter, Christine, Whitney, Sherry, Shawntel, Gabbi, Carrie, Renae, Bentley, Zach, Kira, Mirayah, Jeremy, Michelle, Samantha, Keaona, Jada, Cameron, McKayla, Samantha, Marissa R, Shaniah, and Mikayla.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR**

LESS to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

The deadline for the June issue is May 15.

Commissioner on Call

Several years ago the Band government had a dedicated phone line for members to call during the weekend. Since that time, all Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters near the monthly calendar.

Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration 320-292-0258

Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration 320-630-7415

Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development 320-630-2496

Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education 320-630-9226

Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services 320-630-2607

Susan Klapel, Commissioner of Natural Resources 320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mom, Brother, Gram Kim, Papa

Brad, Montana, Auntie Rachel,

Waylon, Rory, Adrian, Adrian

Grand Celebration Powwow

June 17–19 Grand Casino Hinckley

Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 22–24

New Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) in District II

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

August 19–21

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

The First Gift Moccasin Making

Mondays, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Mpls Am Indian Center — Two Rivers Gallery

Seeking community members to join others in creating baby
moccasins for Am Indian families at Children's hospitals &
clinics of MN. Call 612-879-1700.

Open Gym

Mondays — Thursdays, 5:30 — 9 p.m. District I Community Center

Tabata Workout Sessions

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. Chiminising Community Center

Wood Burning

Tuesdays, 5 – 8 p.m.
District I Cultural Grounds

ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS BUDDING MOON MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Oodena: Town Gichi-oodena: City (literally "Big Town")	"Adaawe" means "He/she buys." "Adaawewigamig" is a store or a shop.	Onamia Public Schools Committee Meeting 12 p.m. ROC Band Assembly Aazhoomog	4 Aaniindi ezhaayin. Where are you going?	COH Outreach (Urban Area) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office Band Assembly Meeting Hinckley	Veterans Coffee & Treats 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center Spring Plant Sale 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. American Indian Center	Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan? What is your name? (For the answer, see page 13.)
Nimaamaa: My mother Nookomis: My grandmother	9 Ayekozi. S/he is tired Nindayekoz. I'm tired	10 Band Assembly Meeting Chi Minising	11 Ziibi: river Ziibiwan: rivers	COH Outreach (DII) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. District II (East Lake) Community Center COH Outreach (DIIa) 1 – 4 p.m. District IIa (Isle) Community Center	Niminwendam nakweshkoonaan. I am happy to meet you.	14 Waabigwan: flower
Eya! Yes! Gaawiin! No!	DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center	COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center	DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District III (Aazhoomog) Community Center DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center DIIa Legislative Meeting 2 p.m. Chiminising	Elder Services Meeting Hinckley ALU District III Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing	East Lake Legislative Committees 12–5 p.m. Big Sandy Lodge	Omaa bi-izhaan. Come here.
Bakade (buh-kuh-day): S/he is hungry. Nimbakade: I'm hungry.	Ningii-izhaa ziibiing bijiinaago: I went to the river yesterday.	24 Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog	Head Start Graduation 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. East Lake DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DChiminising Community Center	Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Head Start Grad 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lake Lena East Lake Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake Band Assembly Hinckley	Head Start Graduation 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Onamia (Wewinabi School)	28 ATV Classes 10 a.m. — 12 p.m. Urban Office 612-872-1424
Bimose (bi-mo-say): S/he walks along.	Ogichidaa: Warrior Ogichidaag: Warriors To work independently on Anishinaabemowin, you can use ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.	Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. District I (Mille Lacs) Community Center Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Minisinaakwaang	Visit millelacsband.con	edcircleagency.com or cal		hange.

HHS Needs Band Members to Provide Proof of Eligibility

The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) is asking for cooperation of beneficiaries to provide proof of eligibility in order to receive services. Proof of eligibility is required by Federal law and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe/Health and Human Services Direct Services Policy.

To be sure Federal Law and the Direct Services Policy are followed, beneficiaries will be asked to provide the following:

- Tribal Member: Tribal Identification or CIB
- First Generation Descendants/ Minor child of an enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member: Parent's Tribal Identification or CIB and birth certificate
- Tribal Member/ Non-Tribal Spouse: Tribal Spouse's Tribal
 ID or CIB, Photo Identification, Marriage Certificate
- MLBO Employee: Employee Identification
- MLBO Employee's Dependent or Child: Parent's Employee
 ID, Birth Certificate.
- MLBO Employee's Spouse: Spouse's Employee Identification, Marriage Certificate.

Any beneficiary who is eligible for direct services through MLBO Health and Human Services and has provided required eligibility documentation may receive care at any of the District Clinics.

As of April 1, 2016, if you are unable to provide the required documentation, MLBO Health and Human Services will be unable to see you until the required documents are provided.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Health and Human Services will see any individual in emergency circumstances.

For questions or concerns please contact:

Jeff Larson, Executive Director Health and Human Services Cheri Hample, Health Services Director

320-532-4163.

Reminder: Make sure to keep your address up-todate with the Enrollment Office. Call District I office at 320-532-7512. Members in outer districts may visit Randi Harrington in District II, Vanessa Gibbs in District III or the Urban Office.

Kickboxing Event Features Band Members

Warriors Xtreme Muay Thai Kickboxers will hit the arena June 4 at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events and Convention Center. Antonio Dvorak and Nate Richardson will be featured, along with Mille Lacs Band members Matt and Cayman. Tickets are \$40 ringside and \$20 general admission. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

For more information call 320-385-0262 or email warriorsfp@yahoo.com.

Congrats to Weight Loss Winners

Congratulations to all who participated in the weight loss challenge. The top five finishers were Bobby Anderson (23.14% of body weight lost), Carmen Green (21.05%), Marvin Siedow (18.75%), Deb Campbell (18.6%), Carla Dunkley (17.1%).

District III fitness coordinator Bobby Anderson, who finished first, decided to share a portion of his winnings with sixth-place finisher Robert Livingston Jr., who lost 15 percent. "Congratulations to all who worked hard and finished the challenge!" said Bobby. "Let's keep up the good work to experience a healthy and active lifestyle."

District I fitness coordinator Jim Ingle said, "According to the stories heard during the weigh outs I am sure many have learned much about the benefits of proper nutrition and exercise for a healthier more productive life. There have been many encouraging stories." See future issues of Inaajimowin for stories about Band members embracing a healthy lifestyle.



The American Indian Center at St. Cloud State University held their 22nd annual powwow April 9 at Halenbeck Hall. Waylon Mitchell, who was named Chiminising Ziigwan Powwow Brave in March, was one of the dancers. For more photos by Band member Bill Jones, see the Mille Lacs Band's Facebook page.



Preparing for Emergency

On Friday, April 8, Band employees and Pine County officials participated in a tabletop exercise to plan for a potential food-borne illness emergency. The exercise was sponsored by the Indian Health Service and Minnesota Department of Health.

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Wewin Plans Color Run

The Mille Lacs chapter of WEWIN (Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations) is holding a "color run" fundraiser June 4.

The run will begin at Eddy's Resort, 41334 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia MN 56359.

The registration fee is \$25 until May 20, 2016. After that the fee increases to \$30, including on the day of the event.

Each registration fee includes a T-Shirt and snack.

Registration and check-in start at 8:30 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Valerie Harrington (320-532-7434), Shannon Porter (320-532-7419), Carmen Weous (320-532-7833), Tammy Smith (320-532-7752), or Bonnie Matrious (320-532-7863).

All proceeds will benefit the Mille Lacs Band Women WEWIN Chapter.

MLB Wewin Chapter 43408 Oodena Drive Onamia, MN 56359.

To download a registration form, go to millelacsband.com/district_news/wewin-plans-color-run-june-4.

INAAJIME INAAJIMENTEN

JUNE 2016

VOLUME 18

NUMBER 06



BAND MEMBERS SAY 'GAAWIIN' TO PIPELINE

BIG SANDY RESORT HOSTS FISHING OPENER FISH HATCHERY **PILOT PROJECT** SUCCEEDS

PURSUING PASSION FOR THE ARTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



M E L A N I E B E N J A M I N

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! Spring and early summer seem to have finally arrived. I hope families are getting outside together and enjoying the beautiful weather.

May was a very busy month, including many, many meetings with Band Members each week on important issues. To me, nothing is more important than the one-on-one meetings with individuals and families to learn about what is on your minds. These meetings also help me take information to our commissioners so we can make necessary changes to improve services to you, the Band Members, and to get the Economic Justice initiative off the ground. We are looking at all our services and determining where there are efficiencies we can implement to improve service-delivery, and to right-size our government.

On May 9, I invited District Representative Aubid and School Board members from Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy to my office to discuss the possibility of convincing the federal government to reinstate the school in East Lake as a BIA-funded school. This is an issue that I've looked into and believe has great potential. This was an excellent meeting, and I've directed our Washington D.C. lobbying firm to begin working on this with our Government Affairs Team. I'm excited to get this work going.

I convened a meeting of the Drum Keepers at Eddy's on May 10, at their request. We had a great discussion about the importance of language and culture as our greatest asset in combatting drugs and crime, as well as restoring hope and identity to our young people and youth. We also discussed putting a longer, two-day meeting together at the Immersion

Grounds later this summer when the building there is finished so we can go into more depth about issues important to all.

For the past few years, I've been strategizing about how to bring more tourism to our region through a collective effort involving the other tribes in Minnesota. My hope is that as the 11 tribal governments, we will establish a tribal non-profit that will promote tourism on our reservations, which I held several meetings about during May.

My office staff and I have been hard at work getting preparations made for the upcoming Elder trip to the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) conference hosted by the Seneca Nation in Niagara Falls later this summer. Making travel arrangements for such a large group can be very challenging, and I am grateful for the support from the Band Assembly in making this trip happen in a well-planned, comfortable way for the elders.

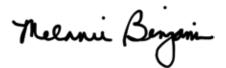
Speaker Beaulieu, Representative Blake and I all attended the First Lady's Luncheon in Washington D.C. on May 12. This is an annual event that for the past seven years has been hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama, bringing professional women together from all walks of life who are involved in community service and government. This was a great event, as always, and a wonderful networking opportunity. This was First Lady Obama's last luncheon, as there will be a new President and First Lady next year.

On May 14, we were proud to host the Governor's Fishing Opener at our brand new property, the Big Sandy Lodge and Resort. It was a very cold, wet day, but it was a great weekend for showcasing our new resort. In my welcome remarks, I told

the Governor and state officials about the Sandy Lake Tragedy and reminded them of the history and importance of the lake. In 1850, about 4,000 Anishinaabe people from Michigan and Wisconsin were lured to Sandy Lake by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey and federal officials who had schemed to trap them over the winter on Big Sandy with the promise of annuity payments, food and shelter.

When they arrived, there was no payment waiting. Hundreds died of cold, starvation and dysentery, and hundreds more died on the long walk back home in the middle of winter. I wanted Governor Dayton and his staff to know that for the Anishinaabe people of the Great Lakes region, Sandy Lake is a sacred place. I thanked Governor Dayton for his friendship and partnership with us on many different issues, noting how far we have come together in just a short period of time. After all, it was not that long ago that we were embroiled in a very hostile legal battle. We still have matters we disagree on, but I am committed — and I think Governor Dayton is committed — to making progress on those issues as well.

I'm speaking at the Head Start Graduation ceremony on May 27, and am very excited about this — one of my favorite events of the year! May and June are a time of graduations, the beginning of the pow wow season, warm summer breezes and families enjoying more time outdoors together. To me this is always a hopeful time of year, and I hope the summer for all Band families is a time of rejuvenation! Miigwech!

















Pine Grove, Nay Ah Shing Hold Fun Run, Powwow

Pine Grove Leadership Academy students made the trip to District I May 13 for a fun run and May 20 for a powwow and royalty contest. Powwow royalty winners were Addison Grap Gahbow (Jr. Princess), Adrian Wade (Jr. Brave), Mia Sam (Sr. Princess), Giniw Buckanaga (Sr. Brave), Arianna Sam (Pine Grove Princess) and Randy Barrett (Pine Grove Brave). Little Otter, Timber Trails and Nay Ah Shing school drums participated, and Pete Gahbow served as Master of Ceremonies.





Onamia School District Holds Powwow, Royalty Contest

It was a great show of unity and native pride May 13 when Onamia Public Schools held their annual powwow in the high school gymnasium. The school has hosted powwows over the years, but this was their first royalty contest. The AmVets Post 53 Color Guard opened the ceremonies, Swamp Nation and Timber Trails drum groups provided the songs, and Carol Nickaboine crowned the winners. Onamia staff were led by Principal J.J. Vold, teacher Jared Barse and School Board Member Virgil Wind in an Honor Dance. Byron Ninham served as Master of Ceremonies, and Chris Nayquonabe and Adrienne Benjamin kept things running smoothly. District I Rep. Sandi Blake also provided support for the event. Royalty winners were Wyatt Oswaldson (Sr. Brave), Bella Nayquonabe (Sr. Princess), Kayla Nayquonabe (Jr. Princess) and Jordan Nayquonabe (Jr. Brave).

Gaawiin! East Lake Community Repeats Opposition to Pipelines

David Niib Aubid gave a lesson in Ojibwe to attendees at a public meeting May 11 concerning the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines. Although he didn't give the direct translation, he made it clear that "gaawiin" means "no."

Niib welcomed visitors to Minisinaawkwaang, saying he was grateful to those who made the event possible — in particular, Friends of the Headwaters and Honor the Earth, whose lawsuit convinced the Minnesota Court of Appeals that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission had erred in granting a certificate of need for the Sandpiper project prior to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

That court decision meant the state had to go back to square one, holding a new series of scoping meetings prior to preparing an EIS. The certificate of need decision won't be made until after the EIS is complete.

Niib also relied on a visual aid to make his point. Midway through his testimony he "shed his skin" — removing his suit jacket to reveal a t-shirt that read "No Tankers, No Pipelines, No Enbridge, No Problem."

After explaining that he'd been a teacher of the Anishinaabe language for many years, he went into his language lesson, introducing the word "gaawiin" before launching into a lengthy address in his native language, punctuated with the word "Gaawiin!" which was echoed by many in the partisan crowd.

If it were up to those in the room, the pipelines would never be constructed. By an unofficial count, 25 testified against the pipelines compared to four in support.

Tania Aubid of Minisinaakwaang also used visual aids to make her point. When it was her turn to testify, she strode to the front of the room wrapped in an American flag and holding an eagle feather fan.

"I am the first daughter of a chief of the southern tribes of the Ojibwe, and I am standing here before you to let you know we are not going to stand this anymore," said Tania. She said her people have protected the land since long before 1492, looking ahead seven generations.

In addition to Niib and Tania, tribal members from across Minnesota who spoke out included Harvey GoodSky Jr., Sandy Skinaway, Veronica Skinaway, Michaa Aubid, Korey Northrup, Debra Topping, Keenan Gonzalez and Frank and Vicki Bibeau.

They spoke of the danger to water and fragile wild rice habitat, the infringement on treaty rights, the tragic history of Indian peoples' relationship to the government, and the shocking fact that Enbridge plans to leave its abandoned Line 3 pipeline in the ground, without cleaning up the mess.

Harvey quoted the Constitution of the United States in his testimony. Emphasizing the word "Congress," he read, "Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Anishinaabeg." He looked around and said he didn't see any Congress members or federal government representatives in the room.

DNR Commissioner Susan Klapel gave the official position of the tribal government (see sidebar).

Three of the supporters were pipeline workers, including Audrey Tsinnie, who said she is half Navaho and half Ojibwe from Grand Portage. The fourth was Patrick Wussow, former Aitkin County and Brainerd administrator.

After the testimony was complete, moderator Barbara Tuckner asked if anyone else wanted to speak. Band member Terry Kemper talked about the importance of love in Anishinaabe culture. "I go out in the woods, and I sing to the trees. I sing to the water," said Terry. "I find love there. But I can't sing to a pipeline. I can't do it. Now I'm going to sing to the grandmothers, and the people who came here and voiced their opinions. Miigwech."

Terry's honor song was the final punctuation mark on the event, one final "Gaawiin" to the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines.













Comments on behalf of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

I am Susan Klapel, the Commissioner of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Department of Natural Resources.

The Mille Lacs Band will submit written comments which will address the Band's concerns regarding the scope of the environmental review for the Sandpiper and Line 3 projects in greater detail.

Today, I want to make four points on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band:

First, the environmental review must be thorough and objective.

- Regardless of where the pipelines are constructed, they will affect thousands of people and the environment in which they live.
 However, some potential routes present more problems than others.
- In order to make an informed decision and to minimize the impact on people and the environment, the State must have a complete and accurate understanding of the potential impacts of the proposed projects and all reasonable alternatives.

Second, the pipelines are proposed to be located near Minnesota's most productive wild rice waters.

- These waters are not only important environmental and economic resources they are an integral part of the cultural identity of the Mille Lacs Band.
- The environmental review must include an evaluation of all potential impacts on these waters including their unquantifiable value as cultural resources.

Third, the final scoping decision document must include a detailed plan for consultation between the State of Minnesota and the Mille Lacs Band.

- The Band is a sovereign government with a duty to protect the interests of its members.
- This can only be achieved if the Band and the State engage in early and meaningful consultation regarding the potential impacts of the proposed projects and the evaluation of alternatives to minimize those impacts.

Finally, I encourage the Department of Commerce, the applicant, and all agencies and officials involved in the environmental review process to listen carefully to the comments made by the community today. These individuals will be directly affected by the proposed projects and we all share an obligation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to address their concerns and to minimize the potential impacts of the proposed projects.

Thank you.

Follow the Sandpiper scoping/EIS process at **bit.ly/1U2IDqK** and the Line 3 scoping/EIS process at **bit.ly/1WGYcLW**.

National News Briefs

Addressing Suicide: In the last 15 years, the number of suicides in Indian Country has skyrocketed according to a recent report from the National Center for Health Statistics, which reports that suicide rates have increased by 89 percent among American Indian and Alaska Native women and 38 percent among men. The report also warns that American Indian and Alaska Native populations may be underreported by up to 30 percent. Poverty, alcoholism and lack of social services are likely contributing factors, and tribal leaders have asked Congress to increase funding for mental health services, education and other critical programs in their communities.

Court to Rule on Tribal Convictions: The Supreme Court took up another Indian law case last month. The court heard arguments for US v. Bryant, the outcome of which will determine whether tribal convictions can be used in federal court to punish offenders who regularly abuse American Indian women. This case is a crucial test for tribal courts across the country and their ability to address high rates of domestic violence on Indian Reservations. The Supreme Court decision will finally resolve a major division among lower courts. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and 10th Circuit Court of Appeals have both upheld the use of tribal convictions while the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals came to a different conclusion, resulting in the loss of protections for Indian Women in a large number of states.

Senate Expands VAWA: Last month, the United States senate introduced a bill addressing the loopholes in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Since 2013, VAWA has recognized tribal authority over all offenders regardless of race. However, the act does not protect children or address the issue of repeat offenders draining already limited tribal law enforcement resources. The new bill, known as the Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act, recognizes the "inherent authority" of tribes to arrest and prosecute any person — regardless of race — for domestic violence against children and crimes committed against tribal law enforcement officers. It also addresses the drug epidemic in Indian Country, providing tribal jurisdiction over anyone who commits drug -related crimes.

Hero Walks On: Joe Medicine Crow, the last Crow war chief and last living link to the Battle of Little Big Horn, passed away on April 4 at age 92. During World War II, Crow was a scout for the 103rd Infantry in Europe where he led a mission across German lines to seize ammunition. He helped capture a German village, disarmed an enemy soldier, and, minutes before a planned attack, set off a stampede of 50 horses from a Nazi stable and rode away singing a traditional Crow honor song. Crow was dedicated to preserving Native American culture. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion d'honneur for his service.

If you have news or story ideas for *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, please contact brett@redcircleagency.com or 320-237-6851.

Band Hosts Governor's Fishing Opener

It was a cold and windy morning at Big Sandy Lake May 14 for the annual Governor's Fishing Opener, but District II Rep. David Niib Aubid and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin gave a warm welcome to Gov. Mark Dayton and other dignitaries, including Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, U.S. Congressman Rick Nolan, House Speaker Kurt Daudt and Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr.

The Band hosted the event at the recently acquired Big Sandy Lodge and Resort north of McGregor in District II.

After the National Anthem and introductory remarks from fishing opener chairwoman Lisa Kruse, Niib offered a pipe to Melanie and Gov. Dayton and explained that Anishinaabe give thanks and ask the blessing of the spirits, including those of the four directions, Wenaboozhoo and "Biboonike," or "Winter-Maker" — which, given the weather, drew a laugh from the crowd.

Melanie spoke of the Band's partnerships with the state and expressed her respect for Gov. Dayton.

"I know he will go down in history as one of the greatest Governors for all Minnesotans, including Native Americans, because he has made us feel respected as governments, and valued as Minnesotans," said Melanie. "And today...I am so proud to call Governor Dayton my friend!

There is so much that the State and Tribes can accomplish together, and today is a prime example. "She also spoke about the Sandy Lake tragedy, calling the lake sacred to Anishinaabe people. The tragedy occurred in 1850, when thousands of Anishinaabe from Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were told to come to Sandy Lake to receive payments and supplies. The aid came late, and some of the food was spoiled. Several hundred Anishinaabe died from starvation, sickness and cold at Sandy Lake and on the return trip home.

"I wanted to touch on this story, because it is my duty, and I want everyone understand why this place is so special to us," Melanie said. "This isn't just any lake. These grounds, these waters are sacred for the Anishinaabe."

"As we gather here today in friendship and partnership, as you head out into our beautiful waters, please take a moment to reflect on our shared history. But I also encourage you to think about the future, and all the opportunity it holds!"

After addressing the crowd, Gov. Dayton presented a commemorative plaque to Melanie and then took to the water, where he reeled in a walleye, a crappie and two perch.









Top: District II Rep. David Niib Aubid conducted a pipe ceremony and told the crowd about the significance of offering tobacco. Bottom left: Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke of her friendship with Gov. Dayton and explained why Big Sandy is a sacred site to Anishinaabe people. Bottom middle and right: Among the dignitaries present were Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, House Speaker Kurt Daudt and U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan.

MCT Issues General Election Notice

On May 13, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe issued the 2016 General Election notice for the Mille Lacs Band. The June 14 election will determine the District I representative, who will serve a four-year term.

Candidates are incumbent Sandra Blake and Ginger Weyaus, the top two finishers in the April 5 primary. Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the District I Community Center and All Nations Church in Minneapolis. District I is the Designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was elected to another four-year term after receiving more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary.

Three candidates in the Primary Election filed timely contests, challenging the Election Board's conduct of the election and the certified results. The Mille Lacs Band Court of Appeals presided over hearings May 2 to determine the validity and sufficiency of the contests. The Court ruled in favor of the Election Board.

Grand Casino Announces Renovations



It's been 25 years since the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe first launched its flagship Grand Casino brand, and to mark the occasion, Grand Casino announced today it is making significant investments in property enhancements at both Grand

Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley to improve the guest experience.

"Twenty-five years ago, the Mille Lacs Band had a vision of what Grand Casino Mille Lacs could contribute to the Mille Lacs area, but few people could have imagined how significant that impact would become," said Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, which owns and operates both Grand Casino properties. "When a business approaches a large milestone anniversary like this, you often think of what else could be. And I'm thrilled to announce today that we have big plans in store for Grand Casino."

Re-Concepting Food & Beverage Experience

A significant part of Grand Casino property enhancements will focus on food and beverage venues.

At Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the former Woodlands Steakhouse space will be replaced by a new concept called Brand Burger Bar. This 4,600 sq. ft. sports-centric restaurant will be an ode to sports fans where Guests can place their favorite burger order and settle in for a fun, community-based viewing of their favorite sports events. There will be over 35 big screen TVs and a bar-style seating area featuring popular slot machines.

The Grand Northern Grill will be replaced by a new concept called the 1991 Kitchen. This 7,075 sq. ft., casual 24-hour restaurant will be sit-down service and will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner comfort foods with a twist.

At Grand Casino Hinckley, a 7,425 sq. ft. diner will be built near the entrance of the Events and Convention Center. Keeping up with the American tradition, Stories Diner will quickly become "the spot" for locals and Guests alike, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner favorites while embracing the everybody-knows-your-name service.

MLCV also plans to introduce a Rival House Sporting Parlour, which is their successful game and fun-themed restaurant in its DoubleTree hotel in St. Paul. The 13,130 sq. ft. Grand Casino version will include bowling lanes, pool tables and other popular games along with Rival House staples like craft beer and shareable plates.

Renovations will also take place at the Grand Grill Americana. In its place will be a 10,301 sq. ft. Lola's Taphouse, a restaurant serving Minnesota's favorite craft brews and popular ales accompanied by a delicious menu serving simple, well-prepared gastro-pub fare that will include an extended selection of shareables, sandwiches, burgers and entrées.

The Grand Buffets will also be refreshed and rebranded as Grand Provisions at both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley. This food hall concept is a multifaceted culinary marketplace that will feature multiple distinct kitchens at each property offering a variety of American, Mexican, Italian and Asian inspired meals, along with home-made pastries and dessert selections. Diners can roam from station to station and select the food they wish, then pay for it in one transaction. What separates this concept from other food halls is the restaurant's ability to flip to a unique all-you-care-to-eat buffet on Fridays, Saturdays and special occasions that allows Grand Casino Guests to enjoy their beloved favorites like the popular Seafood buffet.

"Grand Casino is known for our food offerings. We have people that travel from miles away to share a meal with us," said Tracy Sam, general manager of Grand Casino Mille Lacs. "We knew we could make that experience even better, and the improvements we announced today will really raise the bar for dining in the region."

Another main focus of this project will be the gaming floors at each casino. Mel Towle, General Manager of Grand Casino Hinckley, said that a complete floor-to-ceiling renovation will take place at each property. "Everything from the ceiling and light fixtures to the wall treatments, carpet and property signage will be upgraded."

Other Upgrades

Additional enhancements include:

- A new Associate dining area and break space at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs property
- A new pool area at Grand Casino Hinckley

"These improvements underscore our commitment to providing the best experience for our loyal Guests and Associates," said Nayquonabe. "This is quite an undertaking that we are excited to begin, and we look forward to celebrating our continued success as we unveil each new upgrade."









State and Local News



Friend of Band Appointed:

Governor Mark Dayton announced the appointment of Gail T. Kulick as District Court Judge in Minnesota's Seventh Judicial District. Kulick has

been a resident of Milaca since 1979. Previously, she was an attorney and policy advocate for Winthrop & Weinstine, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and represented District 16A in the Minnesota House of Representatives. "Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Gail T. Kulick has proven herself committed to justice for all Minnesotans," said Governor Mark Dayton. "I trust that her commitment to justice and service will continue in her new role, as District Court Judge for Minnesota's Seventh Judicial District."

MNDNR Walleye Fry: The Minnesota Department of National Resources has launched an ambitious new project to solve the mystery of disappearing walleye from Mille Lacs Lake. Over the course of four days, the DNR netted close to 300 female walleye and harvested nearly 20 million eggs. With the eggs they collected, the DNR returned approximately 10 million walleye as fry to Mille Lacs Lake. DNR Project Manager Brad Parsons said they hope to track the fry released into the lake and better understand why younger walleye are disappearing.

Burial Mound Threatened: Officials from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council argue that a proposed \$4 million wastewater treatment project in Minneapolis including a storm water retention pond could pose a risk to Rattlesnake Effigy, the nearby burial mound. The city of Minneapolis hired archaeologists to investigate burial sites near Afton's Old Village area. The council has the authority to protect burial sites under state law. However, archaeologists found no prehistoric artifacts or burial sites during a search of the site. The proposed wastewater treatment project is scheduled to begin construction in August.

Hospital Reaches Out: Through a new program called First Gift, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota are helping American Indian newborns in the NICU and their families embrace culture and community at one of the most difficult times in their lives. For nearly a year, the program has invited American Indian women to learn to make baby moccasins, which are then presented to newborns in the NICU. The high infant mortality rate among American Indian babies motivated hospital leaders at Children's to reach out and build trust with surrounding communities. In addition to First Gift, the hospital is also recruiting American Indian volunteers to hold babies who are sick.

Beware of High-Pressure Sales: Band member Donivon Boyd is warning District I residents about unscrupulous salespeople preying on vulnerable adults in the area. Donivon was pressured into purchasing a home security service and signing a five-year contract. When his home was broken into, the system failed. "It took my sister six months plus the Attorney General of the State of Minnesota to get out of the contract," said Donivon. "They were claiming I had to pay \$1000 plus the monthly fee." Once they got out of the contract, they couldn't get the company to come and remove the unit. "Every time we would call them and talk to them, they'd say he would be there between 1 and 5 p.m. My sister would wait, and they wouldn't show up."

Gail's Got Goals, and with Help, She'll Achieve Them

Brett Larson Staff Writer

If you spend much time in District I, you probably know Gail Tyson. You may not know her name, but you'd recognize her as the spry elder who's often walking north or south along Hwy. 169. "My other name is 'Gail Walks Far,'" she jokes.

What some may not know about Gail is that she spends her days in the basement of the Government Center studying with the staff of the Department of Labor's (DOL) employment and training center.

"My goal is to get my GED and my driver's license — and I'm going to do it," she says.

Gail grew up mainly in Minneapolis, but she spent many weekends and summer days in District I. Her mother, May Skinaway, would put her on the Greyhound to visit her grandparents, Mary Pendegayosh and Ed Skinaway. She remembers Ed showing her how to process rice and build birchbark birdhouses, which he sold at the Trading Post.

Gail worked as a cook in Minneapolis and raised seven children before moving up to District I in 1987.

She started working with the DOL educators in January and has made incredible progress, according to Jen Shereck, one of the teachers in the program. She came in with no computer skills, but now she can log on and operate the programs — although her two-handed mouse operation is a little unconventional.

Jen used to work in the Early Ed department and taught GED classes part-time in the evenings. A few years ago she transferred to the Department of Labor full-time. Each week

she spends a day in District II and a day in District III in addition to her time at the Government Center in District I.

The other teacher is Deb Campbell, who also worked in Early Ed. The two were reunited when Jen came to DOL full time. Both are licensed teachers. Deb mans the District I class-room where she wears many hats, tutoring, mentoring and advocating for the students. "It's not just GED," Deb says.

Their partner in education is Donita Odden, who joined the staff in October. Donita came to them from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, where she served as Communication Specialist. As Communication Specialist, Donita facilitated Guest Service Trainings, organized bi-monthly communication meetings for

the property and created the newsletter, along with other duties. Her previous position was with Band member Development.

In the Department of Labor she works as a Facilitator developing life and job skills classes and working directly with clients. "People are my passion, so I love that part of it," says Donita.

She has high praise for her colleagues, Deb and Jen. "Their personalities add to the programs," says Donita. "I have learned so much. They're both moms, and they're like mothers to everyone here. They have an open door policy, and they're approachable people."

Gail is just one of their many success stories. She gives credit to her three teachers at the DOL, but also to many others. "Everybody on the reservation cheers me on and tells me to keep studying," she says. "Melanie encourages me to keep working towards my goals. Everybody in the building is happy that I'm getting it done. Somebody's watching me up there, making sure I do this right."

Gail isn't just a walker; she's also a dancer. You may have seen her at the Memorial Day powwow, and you'll probably see her at other powwows throughout the summer.

"I'm still spunky like I was in my younger days, and I'm gonna be like that forever," she says. "I'll still be dancing when I'm 90 years old. Pretty soon I'll be running around with my driver's permit, doing my little Indian dance."





Left: Gail Tyson is working toward her GED and her driver's license, with help from the Department of Labor. Right: Deb Campbell (back), Donita Odden and Jen Shereck are willing and able to help Band members with a variety of educational and training needs.

Education at the Department of Labor

The Department of Labor offers a variety of programs to Band members, including education, job placement and TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).

The goal of the Department is "to empower low-income Mille Lacs Band members and their families to end dependency on assistance and to achieve a self-sufficient lifestyle."

The education program helps Band members prepare for their General Education Diploma (GED) or driver's license, but assistance is offered in other areas as well, including resumes, interviews and obtaining identification (Social Security cards, state IDs or tribal IDs)

The staff members like to start by hearing clients' stories, since each person is unique. They will work with each person to set goals, identify obstacles and work towards solutions.

The GED program begins with an assessment, TABE, or Test of Adult Basic Education, to measure literacy and numeracy skills. The assessments pinpoint areas in need of improvement, and a computer program provides the necessary study aids for the four tests: Science,

Social Studies, Mathematics, and Language Arts.

The program is self-guided and self-paced, and there are no set class times. Individuals can come at their convenience and either work independently or receive direct help from the teachers.

Once preparations are complete, students take pre-tests to ensure they're ready for the GED Exam. DOL staff help students set up a personal website used to register for the test and receive scores.

The tests are given at state centers in Brainerd, Cambridge, Duluth, Pine City and other locations.

After that, it's party time.

"It's a celebration when somebody passes," says teacher Jen Shereck. "It's a huge accomplishment."

Deb stated, "No matter how many students earn their GED, it is always exciting for me." For more on Department of Labor programs, see bit.ly/10Ci6V6.

Band Member Finds Hidden Talent for Pyrographics

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Darrell Sam is no stranger to woodworking, having been employed as a carpenter since 1979. But when he was laid off from a job a while back, he found another gift. "I knew I could draw, and I thought I'd take it another step, so I picked up a hot iron," said Darrell. "Turns out it was something hidden."

This spring Darrell has been helping others get in touch with their hidden talents by teaching woodburning classes at the Cultural Grounds in District I. The fancy word for it, Darrell explained, is "pyrographics" — "writing with fire."

For materials, Darrell cuts his own wood or picks up scraps from sawmills. His favorite wood is cedar because it's soft and allows more control.

Each project begins with a pencil drawing, then carving the outline, and finally shading techniques to add a three-dimensional effect. Some of his pieces include carving as well as burning.

Eventually Darrell hopes to move on from construction work to become a full-time artist, and so far he's been able to sell a lot of pieces. "I do plaques, awards, cabinet doors, arm chairs, welcome signs, stair risers — anything wood," Darrell said. "A lot of it is geared toward a specific group of people: bikers, natives, hunters, fishermen."

His portfolio includes traditional Ojibwe flower patterns, birds, deer, flags, military scenes and Harleys. He also carves traditional grave markers for Band members.

As a teacher, Darrell is willing to work with anyone — experienced artists with advanced drawing skills, or newbies who want to pick up a hobby or search for their own hidden talents.

Many different classes are being held at District I Cultural

Grounds and Community Center — from drumming to moccasin-making to cooking to quilting. Check the calendar at millelacsband.com for regular updates.



Congratulations! Meet Some of the 2016 Graduating Class



Clayton Benjamin



John Calkins



Chelsea Dunkley



Cody Dunkley



Brittany Eagle



Shawntell Jellum



Jared Laguard



Kassandra Merrill



Edward Nadeau



Aaron Nayquonabe



Alexis Petite



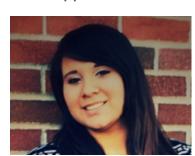
Andrea Sayers



Kyrah Thompson



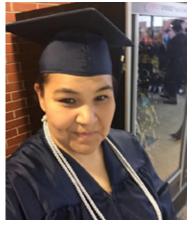
Tehya Wade



Leona Yellow-Hammer



Naomi Long, pictured with her family, graduated May 12 from Central Lakes College.



Shannon Porter graduated May 12 from Central Lakes College.



Arlyn Sam graduated from Central Lakes College May 12.

Do you know any high school, college or graduate school graduates who aren't pictured? Send photo, name and school to myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com, and we'll run the photo in the July issue.

Isle Hosts Banquet for American Indian Grads

Band member graduates and their families were treated to a catered dinner and an inspiring speech at a banquet sponsored by the Local Indian Education Parent Committees at area districts. The banquet was held at Isle High School May 12.

Graduates from Onamia, Nay Ah Shing, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy and Hinckley-Finlayson were honored, as well as one recent recipient of a General Education Diploma (GED).

Attendees were welcomed by Isle LIEPC chair Monte Fronk, Onamia Indian Ed Coordinator Chris Nayquonabe and Nay Ah Shing Counselor Heather Sasse. Tony Pike and Allen Weyaus of AmVets Post 53 presented the colors, and Swamp Nation played a flag song and an honor song for the graduates.

Allen talked about the importance of the songs, and District II Rep. David Niib Aubid offered tobacco and gave an invocation.

Next, Monte thanked former Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise for her leadership and introduced school principals and other personnel in attendance, who in turn introduced their graduates with stories and lists of accomplishments.

After a roast beef dinner catered by Da Boathouse, Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose shared the story of his educational journey.

Sam told the students that he did not graduate from high school with his class due to his own poor choices, so he had to move to the Twin Cities to enroll in an alternative school.

Then, after getting a good start in college, earning a 4.0 and a spot on the Dean's List, the death of his father led him to drop out of school and return home, where he worked as a laborer.

After several years, and some additional poor choices, encouragement from people in his community led him to enroll in university again, and he was able to complete his degree and follow his dreams to a successful career in service to the Band.

He ended by repeating the four lessons illustrated by the





Left: Shawntell Jellum and her family enjoyed the banquet held at Isle High School May 12. Right: Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, shared his story and life lessons with graduates.

four chapters of his story:

- Be grateful for the support you have.
- Don't let others' opinions drown out your inner voice.
- Be prepared for adversity.
- Be mindful of the choices you make. They will define you and your future.

Following the speech, graduates and their families posed for pictures then headed home with an inspiring message to reflect upon as they take the next step on their own journeys.

Summer Powwows Will Be Extra Special this Year

This year's Mille Lacs Band powwows in all three districts promise to be even more fun and inspiring than usual. District III will host its 25th annual Grand Celebration in June; District II will dedicate its new powwow grounds in July; and District I will host its 50th Annual traditional powwow in August.

District III, June 17–19

The Grand Celebration Powwow takes place at Grand Casino Hinckley June 17–19. This powwow has been an annual event since 1992.

The Grand Celebration Powwow is a contest powwow drawing dancers and drum groups from around the nation and Canada who compete for substantial prize money in a variety of categories.

Little Otter will be the Host Drum, and invited drums include Black Lodge from White Swan, Wash., Young Bear from Mandaree, N.D. and Southern Boyz from Lawton, Okla. Terry Fiddler of Prairie Island and Edmund Nevaquaya will serve as Masters of Ceremonies.

District II, July 22-24

When the Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) community was planning its first powwow in 2015, a name was chosen that reflects the reason for the powwow: Gii-Ishkonigewag, which means "They saved it left for us."

To Michaa Aubid, the word commemorates the courage and foresight of the Rice Lake Anishinaabe who refused to give up their homes in the face of decades of pressure from the U.S. government.

The first powwow was held last July under rented tents set up on the powwow grounds five miles south of McGregor on the east side of Hwy. 65. This year's event will be on the same property but in a brand new facility.

District I, Aug. 19-21

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow takes place August 19–21 at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I.

Tony Pike has helped with the powwow for about 15 years, but this is the first time he ran for a position on the Powwow Committee, and he was elected co-chair. "The Committee's job is to make everything as fun and safe as possible," he said.

This year, since it's the 50th annual powwow, the Committee is considering some special attractions like fireworks, a biathlon and a special jingle dress competition. Tony is also expecting a good turnout of color guards from veterans' organizations representing surrounding communities.

One highlight will be the appearance of Joe Nayquonabe Sr. as Lead Dancer. After his return home from Vietnam in 1966, Joe was honored at the first powwow 50 years ago.

Also during the weekend there will be a Saturday morning parade, contests for Princess and Brave, a horseshoe tournament, and vendors selling traditional and contemporary artwork and clothing.

Chasity Gahbow participated in the Princess contest as a young girl, and now she organizes the competition. Chasity also dances and sews regalia. To her, a powwow is all about celebration of culture and community.

"A powwow to me is a gathering where not just Native people, but all people, come together to enjoy dancing, singing and Indian tacos," she said. "Powwows bring the circle of people closer to their family, friends and of course our culture. It's a celebration of just being Anishinaabe People and being part of such an amazing culture."







Top: Joe Nayquonabe Sr. will be an honored guest at the 50th Annual Powwow in District I. Bottom: The new powwow facilities in Minisinaakwaang will be ready in time for the second annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow. Right: The 25th Annual Grand Celebration Powwow in Hinckley will attract the nation's best dancers and drum groups.

More Regional Powwows

SAA GII BA GAA POW WOW

When: June 3 – June 5, 2016 Location: Nett Lake. MN

148TH ANNUAL WHITE EARTH RESERVATION CELEBRATION & POW WOW

When: June 10 – June 12, 2016 Location: White Earth, MN

37TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING OF THE THREE FIRES TRADITIONAL POW WOW

When: June 11 – June 12, 2016 Location: Grand Rapids, MI

COUCHICHIG FIRST NATION 23RD ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW-WOW

When: June 24 – June 26, 2016 Location: Fort Frances, ON VERMILLION POW WOW 2016

When: June 24 – June 26, 2016

Location: Nett Lake, MN

ONEIDA 44TH ANNUAL POW WOW

When: July 1 – July 3, 2016
Location: Oneida, WI

LEECH LAKE 4TH OF JULY POW WOW

When: July 1 – July 3, 2016 Location: Cass Lake, MN

PRAIRIE ISLAND DAKOTA SUMMER WACIPI CELEBRATION

When: July 8 – July 10, 2016 **Location:** Prairie Island, MN

MII-GWITCH MAHNOMEN DAYS
TRADITIONAL 54TH ANNUAL POW WOW

When: July 15 – July 17, 2016 Location: Cass Lake, MN

HONOR THE EARTH HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AND POW WOW

When: July 15 – July 17, 2016 Location: Hayward, WI

WINNEBAGO 2016 POW WOW 150th Annual Homecoming Celebration

When: July 28 – July 31, 2016 Location: Winnebago, NE

ROSEBUD POW WOW CELEBRATION

When: August 26 – August 28, 2016

ocation: Rosebud, SD

CHA CHA BAH NING 36TH ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW WOW

When: August 26 – August 28, 2016

Location: Cass Lake, MN

23RD ANNUAL POTAWATOMI

TRAILS POW-WOW

When: August 27 – August 28, 2016

Location: Zion, IL

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Honors Military in Kuwait

Some 6,000+ miles away, on the base of Camp Arifijan, Kuwait — in 115 degree heat — the 682nd Engineer Battalion proudly flies the Mille Lacs Band flag. Joe Nayquonabe presented it to Lt. Colonel Ferdon after he completed his volunteer duties serving meals to 3,500 troops along with other volunteers from the Serving Our Troops organization last month.

Many Americans remain unaware of the major contributions Native Americans have made to our nation's armed forces. In fact, according to Kevin Gover, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, American Indians serve in their country's armed forces in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group — and have served with distinction in every major conflict for more than 200 years.

Because of those statistics, you've likely heard stories of friends and family members' bravery on the battlefield. There are so many Band members who have given selfless service to honor a nation despite decades of tyranny — including, for

many tribes, being forcibly removed from their homelands. As Gover stated, "if one thing is for certain, Native Americans step forward when duty calls."

Today, as the threat of global terrorism aims to destroy the very fabric of our freedom, over 2 million active duty and reserve military personnel are bravely fighting a prolonged and difficult war on terrorism. Recognition and appreciation for the efforts of our military have never been more important or deserving.

That's why last month — the month of military appreciation and Memorial Day, MLCV took a strong stance in remembering our Veterans and active service men and women. More than 1,200 people were honored with a free meal at the Grand Buffets, The Launch Bar & Grill, The Rival House Sporting Parlour and Citizen Supper Club.

While meals were being served here at home, Joe Nayquonabe was serving meals along with 24 other volunteers from Minnesota with the Serving Our Troops organization. Joe Nayquonabe said he was happy to do his part to represent MLCV and the Mille Lacs Band and show gratitude and raise awareness for folks that are deployed and have served.

"I have always had a great appreciation for our troops with my dad being a Vietnam Veteran (Ogitchida)," said Joe Nayquonabe. "I now have an even greater appreciation seeing what these men and women do to prepare themselves to defend our nation. Our Band member Veterans and service men and women — they are the real superheroes."

Every American soldier bears the United States flag on their right shoulder — symbolizing the flag that was first carried into battle in the Revolutionary War — and in every war America has fought since. For Joe Nayquonabe, presenting the Mille Lacs Band flag to the army base was a symbol; of honor, of remembrance, and of respect for all those who have served.









The Seventh Fire Screening at Grand Makwa Cinema



Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is pleased to bring the film The Seventh Fire to the Grand Makwa Cinema in June. It's a film directed by Jack Pettibone Riccobono, presented by Tree of Life visionary Terrence Malick and executive produced by actress Natalie Portman.

When Rob Brown, a Native American gang leader on a remote Minnesota reservation, is sentenced to prison for a fifth time, he must confront his role in bringing violent drug culture into his beloved Ojibwe commu-

nity. As Rob reckons with his past, his seventeen-year-old protégé, Kevin, dreams of the future: becoming the most powerful and feared Native gangster on the reservation.

This powerful, must-see film was showcased at the White House in March and will be playing at the Grand Makwa Cinema on Wednesday, June 15 and Thursday, June 16 at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. MLCV will provide complimentary admission; concessions are available for purchase.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 5: What are you doing?

A common question to ask when you see someone is "What are you doing?" In Ojibwemowin, we say, "Aaniin ezhichegeyan?" The answer is in present tense. For example, "(N)indanokii." "I am working."

To ask what someone did last night, we say "Aaniin gaa-ezhichigeyan dibikong?" The answer is in past tense: "Ningii-anokii." "I was working."

To ask what someone is doing tomorrow, we say, "Aaniin ezhichigeyan waabang?" The answer is in future tense: "Niwii-anokii." "I will be working."

Following are some additional answers, in all three tenses. A couple things to notice: You can use "nind" or "ind" as the prefix for first person present tense. Different people and different communities have their own preferences.

Second, some consonants change when you add a prefix — 'b' becomes 'p,' 'd' becomes 't', 'g' becomes 'k,' 'j' becomes 'ch,' 'z' becomes 's,' 'zh' becomes 'sh.'

It's just another one of the tricky aspects of Ojibwemowin! Don't worry, though, you'll pick it up eventually.

	Present	Past	Future	
Working	(N)indanokii	Ningii-anokii	Niwii-anoki	
Cleaning	Nibiinichige	Ningii-piinichige	Niwii-piinichige	
Resting	Indanweb	Ningii-anweb	Niwii-anweb	
Going home	Ingiiwe	Ingii-kiiwe	Niwii-kiiwe	
Cooking	injiibaakwe	Ingii-chiibaakwe	Niwii-chibaakwe	
Shopping	Nimaa'ishkam	Ingii-maa-ishkam	Niwii-maa'ishkam	
Swimming	Nibagiz	Ingii-pagiz	Niwii-pagiz	
Gambling	Indataage	Ingii-ataage	Niwii-attage	

Here's a final thought: Gidaa-gagwe-aabajitoon Anishinaabemowin endaso-giizhik, gabe-giizhik. (You should try to use the Anishinaabe language all day, every day.)

Pediatric Staff at Ne-la-Shing Strive to Ease Shot Anxiety

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer



There are probably very few people who don't get nervous about getting shots while at a doctor's visit. In fact, it's more common for people to have high anxiety about the medical procedure even though it happens relatively quickly and isn't terribly painful.

To help ease anxiety and to help reduce the pain associated with shots, Twila Jesso, a pediatric nurse practitioner for the Band, has piloted an initiative specifically for babies and youth called the "Gentle Pledge."

Quite simply put, the initiative is a pledge to be gentle when delivering shots and to use simple steps help ease the pain.

"We have advocated that babies under a year get sugar syrup that blocks the pain receptors and that babies are held differently," said Twila. "Instead of laying them down and

stretching them out on a table — making them feel scared and vulnerable — we hold babies.

"We ask their parents or family to hold the baby upright, closely and safely, and then we give them their shot."

By doing it that way the babies are kept warm and experience a sense of immediate comfort.

For toddlers and adolescents a numbing cream can be used to help block the pain. Families can still hold their toddlers and be near the older kids to help reduce anxiety about the procedure.

The medical staff also relies on distractions such as toys that light up or make noises for the toddlers and an electronic tablet for the teens.

"Hopefully by doing these things, we've eased the anxiety and helped block the pain associated with shots."

Twila learned of the technique when she attended a pediatric conference. Those who work in pediatrics at the Ne-laShing Clinic started using the techniques in April.

So far, the families who have come in with their children have been pleased with the Gentle Pledge techniques especially those with babies.

"There have been times when people didn't get shots for their babies because they didn't want it to hurt them, so I'm hoping this helps reduce the fear of coming to the clinic," Twila said.

The pledge is very low cost, and the goal is to expand it to all districts.

"I am excited to offer this option," said Twila. "It is my goal to reduce the fear kids have about coming to the clinic, and I want them to feel like it is a safe place.

"The goal of my practice has always been to build a trusting relationship with the children and their parents, and by doing so, I hope that they will always be able to come to me with problems or concerns."

Mothers of Tradition Helps Women Live Healthy Lives

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Every Wednesday evening for the past two years, Kim Sam has been going to the Mille Lacs County Jail to meet with the female Band members who are behind bars.

Kim's work at the facility is focused on helping the women figure out ways to change their lives through a program called "Mothers of Tradition."

Mothers of Tradition was developed to help Native American women obtain the skills and knowledge they need to live healthy lives both traditionally and spiritually.

It was also created to increase the awareness of how intergenerational trauma has interrupted the culture, language, family ties and parenting practices of Native people. It was designed to help people learn how to apply the cultural teachings to bring healing to children, to relationships and to the community.

"There's so much uplifting for these women and I can see a desire for change as they learn about different teachings,' said Kim, a prevention specialist for the Band's Behavioral Health Department.

"I have seen some successes and I have heard that the

women, even while they are still in jail, are doing well because of the teachings."

The sessions teach them about cultural practices and how to build relationships. They also focus on their self-image.

"We also focus on historical trauma because it's important to learn why their behaviors or actions might be continuing in this generation," Kim said.

Some of the topics covered include wellbriety and the importance of conscious change and thought processes.

One of the goals is to help women understand how important they are as first teachers and mothers in passing along the teachings of living healthy, balanced lives.

One of the things that Kim says is important is to realize is that, "just because someone stumbles or loses their way, it doesn't mean they are lost forever."

The women who attend the groups do so because they want to be there. And it attracts more than Native American women, it also draws others who want to learn how to improve their lives. The group attendance is fairly consistent while the women are incarcerated.

The visits to the jail began after Kim was asked by a few Elders and others about incorporating time there to help the women who might benefit from the Mothers of Tradition

"I'm really proud of the Mothers of Tradition group," she said. "Once, there was a conflict that happened outside of our group, and when they came into the circle they apologized to

Circles are critical to the work Kim does because they provide the practices of the seven teachings.

"The stories in the teachings help people know that they can do better or they can learn to do something differently."

Besides the Mothers of Tradition program, Kim facilitates other programs including the Fathers of Tradition, Sons of Tradition for males ages 13-17, Daughters of Tradition I for females ages 8-12 and Daughters of Tradition II for females ages 13-17 years old.

Contact Kim at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419 to find out dates and meeting times for each group.











Mino Miijim — Good Food Project

Healthy native foods were on the menu April 29 at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum as Sean Sherman (aka The Sioux Chef) served a few dozen Band members a variety of local and indigenous foods, including turkey, wild rice, squash and fiddle heads.

The dinner was organized and hosted by Honor the Earth and the Community Support Services Department as part of the Band's Integrated Food Systems Program. Program staff are helping Band members start their own gardens, and they are implementing a "tribally-supported agriculture" food project. Individuals can purchase shares and receive healthy foods delivered to tribal offices.

See anishinaabefoodsovereignty.com for more on the project, or contact Kevin Pawlitschek at 612-532-1612.

Bazhiba'igewin — Band Youth Learn Tradition of Spearfishing

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

It's a cold night on the lake. You can see your breath as the chill goes into your bones. The fish must be gathered, though.

Spearing one fish at a time, following them with flashlights, they take what they can. Hesitant to go back to the landing, they make the journey to load up the night's catch.

They see the large group of people that sent them on their way, anxiously waiting their return. Upon arriving back at the dock, they hear the racial slurs, the hatred being thrust upon them. Anger, prejudice and misunderstanding fuel the atmosphere which divides two cultures.

It was a tough time in the 1980s and '90s when Anishinaabe Treaty Rights were under protest in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The strife continues to this day, the competition between inherent rights and state privileges.

Today, traditions are being passed on from one generation to another — from experienced mentors who recall an era when netting and spearing were deemed illegal, to young learners who have had little exposure to these once-common methods.

This spring, Band member Curt Kalk volunteered his time to help teach Mille Lacs Band youth about spearing walleye.

He started out by showing 14 young students in the Wii Du program how to fillet fish. Most of the youth hadn't done this or even seen it done before.

As Carmen Green pushed off from shore with Curt at the wheel, the boat motor came to life and they were off with Giniw Buckanaga

Curt gave advice based on his vast knowledge from years of harvesting fish. "There's very few fish out tonight," he observed. "There must be a musky nearby."

He pointed toward shore, sharing that the fish like to lay their eggs on the rocks. "This is a very good spot!" he said with a smile. Listening purposefully, Giniw scanned the water patiently. Giniw takes part in the Wii Du Program, a youth program in the Mille Lacs Band Department of Labor. Tonight is his night to learn how to spear.

As the waves rocked the boat and the wind whistled, visibility was poor, but Giniw remained confident in getting his catch. The lights scanned to and fro, while the spears were held ready and steady.

"You look for the eyes to shine back at you," Curt instructed, while Giniw gazed out into the water.

As time progresses, more youth are taking part in cultural activities. The goal is not only about harvesting fish to eat. It

is about being part of a culture that has generations of history. And although gathering fish plays a role, it is part of a bigger plan — a lifestyle that was gifted to the Anishinaabe to live nice, purposeful lives. Mii iw. Miigwech



Giniw Buckanaga had his eyes peeled for ogaawag (walleyes).

Fish Hatchery Pilot Project a Success

Brett Larson Staff Writer

A million baby walleyes are swimming free in rearing ponds after a wildly successful pilot project conducted by the Mille Lacs Band DNR.

Last fall, Commissioner Susan Klapel was directed by a joint resolution from the Band Assembly and Chief Executive to develop a fish hatchery to preserve the Mille Lacs strain of walleye and potentially assist in the recovery of the walleye population, which has declined in recent years.

Susan wasted no time, assigning the job to wildlife biologist Kelly Applegate, aquatic biologist Chad Weiss and the Department's new fisheries biologist, Carl Klimah.

The team also wasted no time. They chose a site in a "top secret" location, equipped the building with the necessary power and plumbing, purchased used equipment from other Indian bands, and developed a plan to harvest eggs and milt from Mille Lacs walleyes.

All that was easier said than done, but jumping to the happy ending, it worked, and it was dirt cheap — about \$10,000, or a penny per walleye.

"This project is part of our planning for the future of the lakes within the 1837 Ceded Territory," said Susan. "Right now stocking might not be the answer, but we will be ready if it becomes necessary."

The eggs were gathered from April 14 through 20 with help from Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac spearfishers. The DNR crew set up stations at Cedar Creek and Father Hennepin to harvest the eggs of about 60 females.

The eggs were mixed with sperm and placed in 20 plastic jars, which were brought to the hatchery. Fresh water circulated through the jars, creating the perfect habitat for incubation.

The eggs began to hatch during the last week in April, and on Monday, May 2, the hatch began in earnest. As the tiny fish emerged, they floated to the top of the jars, where they rode the current into a trough, through a series of PVC pipes, to a holding tank.

Soon there were clouds of fry swimming in the tank - 100,000 to 200,000 within a few hours.

At that point, Carl and Chad netted the fry out, weighed them to estimate how many there were, and syphoned

them into collapsible plastic jugs to transport them to the rearing ponds.

A few days later, all 20 jugs were empty, and a million walleyes were getting accustomed to their new home.

The team will monitor the walleyes' development in the rearing ponds, and if enough of them develop into fingerlings, they will net them out or drain some of the water to gather them up and stock them in Namachers Lake in District III.

The Band has been restoring Namachers, where low water levels led to oxygen depletion and fish kills. Culverts have been replaced and a berm repaired to bring the lake back to its former level. Now all that's left is to restore the fish population.

The DNR is purchasing perch and bluegill fry from a hatchery to stock in the lake. Once they are established, they will serve as food for the walleyes.

If the Mille Lacs walleye population continues to decline, the option will be available to stock the lake using fish from Namachers or the rearing ponds.

The Minnesota DNR is also considering building a fish hatchery at Mille Lacs as part of an effort to improve management of the lake. The hatchery would be part of a proposed \$3.5 million facility, which may also include a fishing museum and hall of fame.

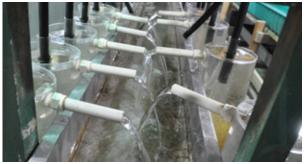
This spring the state DNR also harvested eggs from Mille Lacs walleyes, hatched them in St. Paul, and will return them to Mille Lacs as part of a study of reproductive success.



Step 1: Eggs and milt are removed from speared fish.



Step 2: Eggs and milt are mixed together.



Step 3: Fry travel through a series of pipes to a holding tank.



Step 4: Fry are netted and weighed.



Step 5: Fry are siphoned into jugs and brought to rearing ponds on tribal land in District I.





Wayezhimind A'aw Anishinaabe Anishinaabe Being Deceived

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Gaawiin onjida niwii-ni-dazhindanziin noongom i'iw wezhibii'amaang omaa. Ayaawag ingiw akiwenziiyag naa gaye ingiw mindimooyenyag gaa-pi-naazikawijig, geget owaniskwe'igoniwaa aanind a'aw Anishinaabe baandigadood omaa ishkoniganing bekaanak i'iw akeyaa ezhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe asemaaked.

I have a reason for addressing the topic I have chosen to write about in this article. There are some elders who have approached me saying that they are bothered by what some Anishinaabe are bringing into the reservation, those ceremonies that are not native to this area.

Odaa-wii-mikwendaanaawaa ingiw Anishinaabeg, gidayaamin omaa ishkoniganing i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-asemaakeyang biinish da-niapenimoyang giniigaaniiminaang. Ishke waasa ishkweyaang onjikaamagad i'iw gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-asemaakeyang naa gaye ge-ni-apenimoyang giniigaaniiminaang.

What people need to remember that here on the reservation we have been given those ceremonies through which we do our tobacco offerings and what we rely on for support or help in our future. These teachings come from way back and passed down from generation to generation instructing the manner or method through which we do our tobacco offerings and get our spiritual support in our future.

Ishke dash ingiw Anishinaabeg baandigadoojig i'iw anooj akeyaa eni-izhichigeyang asemaakeyang, odaa-wii-manaajitoonaawaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang ishkoniganing. Gaawiin oda-wii-aanawendanziinaawaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe endanakiid omaa Misi-zaaga'iganiing ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

For those that are bringing in ceremonies and ways to put tobacco that are not native to our region, they need to remember to be respectful to the ceremonies that are already in place here on the reservation. They should not view what we have been given as being inadequate to us who live here on the Mille Lacs reservation.

Gaawiin gaye indaanawendanziimin baandigadoowaad omaa ishkoniganing, mii eta-go omaa wii-ni-wiindamaageyaan, gaawiin i'iw akeyaa gii-izhigikinoo'amaagoowizisiimin da-izhichigeyang i'iw akeyaa. Geget nigichiapiitendaamin i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-ondinamang i'iw bimaadiziwin ge-naadamaagoyang.

We are not considering what is being brought in as being inferior, I am only saying that we have not been taught to do those spiritual things that are not native to our area. We have a lot of respect and faith for those teachings, which will give us the support, and life we need.

Gaawiin gaye nigii-michi-giizhitoosiimin i'iw anooj akeyaa ani-asemaakeyaang. Mewinzha ishkweyaang ingiw akiwenziiyibaneg naa gaye ingiw mindimooyenyibaneg gii-gikinoo'amaagewag i'iw akeyaa ge-izhitwaayang miinawaa i'iw akeyaa ge-izhichigeyang da-ni-asemaakeyang. Booch igo iwidi ishkweyaang a'aw Anishinaabe gii-shawendaagozigwen gii-pi-naazikaagowaad inow Manidoon ingiw akiwenziiyibaneg naa mindimooyenyibaneg gii-gikinoo'amawindwaa ge-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe omaa endanakiid ge-ni-izhichiged asemaaked.

We did not just create out of the blue those ceremonies that we have here today. Way back our old men and old ladies of the past taught us our ceremonies and the ways to do our tobacco offerings. I am sure somewhere way back the Manidoog took pity on us as a people and approached our old men and our old ladies giving them the teachings on how the people in this area should go about in offering up their tobacco.

Ishke dash ingiw anooj baandigadoojig omaa ishkoniganing bakaanadini akeyaa izhi-gikinoo'amaagewag ge-izhichiged asemaaked a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke dash gaawiin omoonendanziinaawaa ogikendanziinaawaa ani-aanawenimaawaad inow Manidoon akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawind a'aw Anishinaabe omaa endanakiid. Maagizhaa iwidi bakaan onjikaamagadinidog baandigadoowaad omaa ishkoniganing i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawind Anishinaabe bakaan endanakiid da-apenimod.

Those newcomers that are coming upon our reservation are bringing teachings and ceremonies that could be considered contradictory to what we have been originally given. They do not realize or know that they are saying to the Manidoog that what we were originally given is inadequate/ inferior. More than likely what they are bringing in onto the reservation is the ceremonies and teachings that were given to Anishinaabe living in a different area to rely on.

Gaawiin gaye da-aanawendamaan i'iw Anishinaabe bakaan endanakiid ezhitwaad ezhichiged asemaaked, mii eta-go ekidoyaan, Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa nigii-izhigikinoo'amaagoowizisiimin da-izhichigeyaang. Mii i'iw ge-ni-ayaangwaamitooyang da-ni-bimiwidooyang niigaan a'aw Anishinaabe endanakiid omaa ishkoniganing gaaizhi-miinigoowizid da-apenimod.

I am not saying that I consider these new teachings/ceremonies as being wrong, what I am saying is that we who live in this area were not given these teachings. We need to concentrate on focusing on what we have been given ceremony-wise that gives us spiritual support in our future.

Aanind gaye a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go ezhi-michi-giizhitood i'iw akeyaa geizhichiged Anishinaabe da-ni-asemaaked. Gaawiin omaa odoondinanziin omaa dagii-gikinoo'amaagopan inow akiwenziiyibanen naa mindimooyenyibanen iwidi gaaayaanijin gaa-tanakiid. Nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe geget manezi biinjina dibishkoo-go gaawiin odapiitendanziin bimaadizid. Mii dash imaa apa'iwed anooj baa-izhichiged nanda-waabandang da-apiitenimigod dash inow owiij'anishinaabeman.

Some of our Anishinaabe have created out of the blue the ways and the manner in which we should put our tobacco. They did not get these teachings or knowledge from the old men and old ladies of the past in their home communities. Many of our Anishinaabe are lacking within and not having the self-confidence or self-worth. To make up for this deficiency they run around doing different things/ceremonies seeking the approval of their fellow Anishinaabe.

Ishke gaye niin endoodaagooyaan aaningodinong anooj igo ingoji babaa-izhaayaan ani-naadamawag a'aw Anishinaabe ani-asemaaked, niwii-ayaawigoog ingiw Anishinaabe nayaadamawagig da-ni-aanjitooyaan i'iw akeyaa eni-izhichigeng aniasemaakeng. Mii dash ezhi-wiindamawagwaa, gaawiin indaa-aanjitoosiin i'iw akeyaa eni-izhichigeyaan. Ingiw akiwenziiyibaneg naa mindimooyenyibaneg nigiigikinoo'amaagoog ge-izhichigeyaan.

What also happens to me at times when I travel about in helping our Anishinaabe as they do their tobacco offering, the Anishinaabe that I am approaching to help in a particular ceremony will ask that I change how I do that particular ceremony. What I tell them is I cannot change the way I do a particular ceremony. The old men and old ladies of the past from our area taught me the teachings that I bring to the ceremony.

Ishke ani-aanjitooyaan i'iw akeyaa izhiwebinigeyaan, nimaazhi-doodawaag miinawaa nimbaapinenimaag ingiw gaa-pi-gikinoo'amawijig. bimiwidooyaan i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan. Oda-wii-ayaawaawaan awiya ge-ni-izhichigenid i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziwaad omaa endanakiiwaad. Indaa-wii-manaaji'igoog, gaawiin inda-wii-nanaandodamaagosiig da-ni-aanjitooyaan i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan niin. Mii-go dibishkoo omaa ishkoniganing gaawiin da-wii-izhi-niigaanenimosiiwag bakaan wenjiijig da-nanaandomaawaad omaa endanakiinjin da-aanjitoonid i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhigikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-ni-izhichigeyang.

If I were to change how I do this ceremony I would be doing wrong and would be disrespectful toward those who gave me the teachings I have. I have to carry on in the way that I was taught. They need to have someone from their local area to do the ceremony in the way that they were taught in their particular community. These Anishinaabe need to treat me respectfully and not ask to change the way that I have been taught. The same goes for those newcomers that have come onto the reservation from different areas, they should not be so bold to ask the people living here to change how we have been taught when it comes to our ceremonies.

Ishke noongom a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan geget gidamaagizi. Mii-go apane nandawaabandang ge-wenda-minokaagod imaa biinjina. Mii imaa nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe wayezhimind. Ishke nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogii-wanitoon gidinwewininaan. Miigo maa bangii ani-ojibwemonid inow endazhimaanid inow asemaan echigaazonijin, mii-go imaa da-debwetawaawaad. Ishke dash wiin a'aw wenda-nitaa-ojibwemod, mii-go omaa ani-gikenimaad, gaawiin ogikendanziiwan eni-izhichigenid iniw genooodamaagenijin miinawaa ani-noondawaad ezhi-mamaazhigiizhwenid aniojibwemonid. Mii dash i'iw noongom wenji-ayaad a'aw Anishinaabe genoodamaaged debinaak eni-izhichiged. Gaawiin nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogikenindanziin ge-giiizhi-aanawenimigopan gii-waabamigod gii-noondaagod iniw akiwenziiyibanen naa

mindimooyeyibanen gaa-ayaanijin.

Today a lot of our Anishinaabe are pitiful; they are always looking for something to fulfill themselves on a spiritual level from within. Our people are vulnerable and are cheated in the process. A lot of our Anishinaabe have lost their language. They go to a ceremony and they hear the one conducting the ceremony haphazardly speaking Ojibwe for the tobacco getting deceived in thinking the speaker is doing a good job. For those that are fluent Ojibwe speakers and sit in on the ceremony, they will know that the one conducting the ceremony does not know what he is doing and they will hear him slaughter the language. That is why today there are Anishinaabe speaking doing a half-heartedly job. A lot of our Anishinaabe that I am speaking of do not realize how inadequate our old men and old ladies would have viewed them if they were there and hear them as they do the ceremony.

Mii i'iw noomaya gaa-tazhinjigaadeg miinawaa gemaa gaye gii-inaakonigeng ingiw wedewe'iganijig iniw Manidoo-dewe'iganan genawendamaagejig, mii ingiw ge-inaakonigejig awenen ge-biindigadoonijin imaa ishkoniganing i'iw akeyaa ge-izhi-asemaaked a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke noongom nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe omaa baa-ayaa omaa anooj izhichiged miinawaa baa-wayezhimaad iniw Anishinaaben omaa endanakiinijin.

It was just recently discussed and maybe decided that our drum keepers that take care of the ceremonial drums on the reservation will screen and decide who can bring a particular ceremony onto the reservation. Today we have a lot of Anishinaabe that we view as doing crazy things when it comes to ceremonies and preying on the vulnerability of the people and deceiving them in the process.



Band Member Pursues Passion as Writer and Musician

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Growing up, Leah Lemm's plan was to become a chemical engineer after graduating from college. Math and science had always come naturally for her and she had been accepted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which is known as one of the best science and engineering colleges in the country.

But plans change. After her first semester, Leah decided she didn't like engineering and switched her major to economics because she liked how "economics helps explain the world in a rational sense."

Still, Leah, a Band member who grew up in Anoka and now lives in St. Paul, didn't want a career in finance either.

"What I really wanted was an office where I was surrounded by books with wooden walls so I could write and postulate," said Leah, who also minored in writing while in college.

Before she left Boston and after graduating from MIT in 2004, Leah went to the Berklee College of Music to study voice and music production engineering. It was then that she started writing music.

And that's where this part of Leah's story begins. Currently, she is enrolled in the Institute of American Indian Arts working towards her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Poetry. She's in the college's low residency program, which means she can continue to live in Minnesota with her husband and toddler son, but still attend the Santa Fe college.

"I wanted the MFA less for the professional development and more as a creative outlet," said Leah. "It gives me an excuse to write. I'm also using poetry to better my songwriting."

For Leah, one of the benefits of attending the Institute of American Indian Arts is that at least 50 percent of the students are Native Americans in the MFA program, which means she doesn't need to explain her background or feel like she's being asked to speak for an entire group of people — a wel-

come change from her undergraduate experience.

One of the challenges Leah has created for herself is to write a new song from scratch every week. Her songs can be found here: songdrink.wordpress.com.

"It's a practice in improving my songwriting and embracing artistry."

A fun fact is that while working on her undergraduate degree, Leah was a member of an a cappella group, the Chorallaries of MIT, because she liked to sing. She also did a lot of CD proj-

ects and used audio technology — which in some ways help set the stage for her work today. She also played the violin and was good enough to be a part of the all-state symphony orchestra in high school and the MIT Symphony Orchestra in college. After suffering a shoulder injury while playing rugby, Leah stopped playing the violin.

"Singing is my instrument, my voice is my instrument," said Leah, whose dad is William Premo.

In early April, Leah was one of the artists who participated in the National Native American Ten Minute Play Festival presented by New Native Theatre. She wrote a play that was performed, and she also sang during the event.

Leah, who is connected to the Ojibwe culture, is a Native artist, but not necessarily in a traditional sense.

"My strength is a combination of who I am. I am an artist and Native, and you're a native artist no matter what your art is."

Besides her passion about her art, Leah is also an advocate for mental health issues. She has struggled with Obses-





sive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) since she was a child. Her play was about a woman who has a baby and struggles with OCD.

"I like to be open about mental health to help people understand that it's more common than we think. Maybe someone out there with OCD will feel less alone."

Since the festival performance and debut of her play, Leah has also done a few other small gigs in the Twin Cities. "My dream is to find myself writing poetry and creating music on Lake Superior in a small cabin," she said.

Leah said she would also like a band so she can find a way to combine her music and poetry and somehow give back to the community through her work. She also spent a week as an Artist-in-Residence at the Anishinabe Academy in Minneapolis, teaching poetry and songwriting.

For now, though, she will focus on her writing, singing and finishing her degree program and then determine her next steps.

You can contact Leah at leahlemm@gmail.com.



The 2016 Blandin Community Leadership Program's spring cohort included the following Mille Lacs band attendees: Megan **Ballinger, Lucas** Best, Chandell Boyd, Daniel Boyd, Chilah Brown. Catherine Colsrud, **Brandon Colsrud, Dustin Goslin, Bradley Harrington,** Janie Miller, Kiana Morrison, Daniel Pewaush, Jamie Rancour, Wally Schmucker and Wanetta Thompson.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy June Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport **Donald Ray Anderson** Randall Wayne Anderson Ronald Dale Anderson Shirley Ann Beach Arvina Marie Benjamin Sharon Lee Benjamin Rhonda Marie Bentley Shirley Jane Boyd David Bradley Jr. Rory Levine Bruneau Clifford Kenneth Churchill Sherry Elaine Colson Emma Compelube Simon Eugene Day Jr. Ellagene Diane Dorr Peter Jerome Dunkley Rosetta Marie Eagle Bruce Wayne Frye George Allen Garbow Jr. Kat Anne Garbow Melanie Raemel Garbow Marilyn Ann Gurneau Monica Louise Haglund Steven Jerome Hanks Bruce Duane Hansen Devona Lee Haskin Shirley Ann Hillstrom Dorothy Jean Hofstedt Robert Dwaine Kegg Connie Lou Kevan Marlowe James LaFave LeRoy Joseph Mager Robert Wayne Mayotte John Gene Morrow Barbara Jean Mulhall Dana Lou Nickaboine

Georgia Louise Nickaboine Joel Jay O'Brien Alof Andrew Olson Jr. Gordon Gail Parr Patricia Pindegayosh Daniel Wayne Quaderer Alan Duane Ray Charlene Ann Shingobe Charles Duane Shingobe Warren Skinaway Edward James St. John Pearl Anne St. John Dean Ray Staples Frances Staples Francine Wanda Staples Julie Ann Staples Elvis John Sutton Judy Ann Swanson Ann Marie Thalin Arlene Rene Weous De Etta Marie Weyaus Loris Marie White Judy Jo Williams

Happy June Birthdays:

Happy 18th birthday to my daughter, **Leona**

Yellowhammer, love Mom!

- Happy birthday to Daughter Kate Davis from Mom and Dad.
- Happy birthday, **Alizaya Jo Wagner** on 6/1 with love from,
 Gramma Tammy, Elias, TANK,
 Rico, Uncle Brandon, Auntie
 Chan, Jazmin, and Ahrianna.
- Happy birthday **Tayaunna Boyd** on 6/1 with love from
 Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK,
 Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel,

Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy 14th birthday **Dante James** on 6/3 with love from mom, Selena, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul and Daymon. • Happy birthday **Roland Smith Jr**. on 6/4 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna.

- Happy birthday **Sherry** on 6/9, love the Harrington Family!
- Happy birthday Bianca Minwaasinookwe on 6/16, love, Baabiitaw, Dede, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Henry, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Grandma Kim, Auntie, Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Missy, Guy, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, and Rory. • Happy birthday to our big bro, **Dano** on 6/16! Love your sisters and Faja. • Happy birthday Roland Smith Sr. on 6/18 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin and Ahrianna.
- Happy birthday Candace
 on 6/20 from Jacob. ◆ Happy
 birthday Candace on 6/20 from
 Cyrell, Ernie, Richard, Rachel,
 Kelia, Railie, and Mom. ◆ Happy
 birthday Warren "Dad" on
 6/23, love your daughters, Tracy
 and Shelby. ◆ Happy birthday
 Kevin on 6/23, love Mom, Pie,
 Grandma, Papa, Dad, Uncle
 Brad, Auntie Melissa, Braelyn,

Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn,

Bianca, Henry, Auntie, Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Missy, Guy, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Gram Karen, Auntie Tracy, Shelby, Max, Dean, Jacob, Jarvis, Miranda, Jarvis Jr., Jacob, Aiva, Mark, DeBreanna, Emery, Auntie Sharon, Wally, Melodie and Ravin. • Happy birthday **Gramma Tammy** on 6/24 with love from your grandbabies — Elias, TANK, Jazmin, Alizaya, Rico and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday Mom on 6/24 with love from Brandon and Chantel. • Happy 8th birthday to our Yaya, Mariah Lynn on 6/28! Love, Steff, Sam, Potbelly, and Daddy. • Happy birthday **Juni** on 6/28 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizyay, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday Big **John** on 6/29 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizyay, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Ravin** on 6/30, love Auntie Tracy and the Harrington Family! • Happy birthday, Ravin

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Family!

Happy belated birthday to my son, **Weylin Davis** on 5/2! Love, Dad.

on 6/30. Love, the Harrington

Other Announcements:

Reminder: Make sure to keep your address up-to-date with the Enrollment Office. Call District I office at 320-532-7512. Members in outer districts may visit Randi Harrington in District II, Vanessa Gibbs in District III or the Urban Office. • The Institute of American Indian Arts is pleased to announce the graduation of Millissa Mishelle Kingbird (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe), with an MFA in Creative Writing — Poetry. She received her degree during the commencement ceremonies in Santa Fe, NM on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 11 a.m. ● In loving memory of **David Matrious** 6/23/15 taken from us too soon missed by your family. • In loving memory of **Scott Aubele** 6/15/95 we miss you and you are in our hearts — sadly missed by your mother and brother.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Myles Gorham at **myles.gorham@ redcircleagency.com**or **call 612-465-8018**.

The deadline for the July issue is June 15.

Commissioner on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration320-292-0258Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration320-630-7415Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development320-630-2496Suzanne Wise, Commissioner of Education320-630-9226Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services320-630-2607Susan Klapel, Commissioner of Natural Resources320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

Circle of Strength and Healing; A follow up to the Roundtable Discussions 1-Day Conference – FREE

June 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley

Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 22–24

New Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) in District II

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

August 19–21

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center

- Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Open Gym

Mondays — Thursdays, 5:30 — 9 p.m. District I Community Center

Drum Practice

Wednessdays, 5:30 – 8 p.m. District I Community Center

Cooking Class

June 2 and 16, 5:30 - 8 p.m. District I Community Center

ODE'IMINI-GIIZIS STRAWBERRY MOON JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events Band Assembly meeting times and locations are subject to change. Due to scheduling conflicts, there is no District III community meeting in June.			Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center	COH Outreach (Urban Area) 11 a.m. — 2 p.m. Urban Office Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers Nay Ah Shing High School Graduation 6 p.m.	Veterans Coffee & Treats 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center	Warriors Xtreme Muay Thai Kickboxing Event 7 a.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center Kid Crafts: Corn Husk Dolls 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
Inini: Man Ininiwag: Men Ikwe: Woman Ikwewag: Women	Gwiiwizens: Boy Gwiiwizensag: Boys Ikwezens: Girl Ikwezensag: Girls	Men's Gathering 6 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Chi Minising Community Center Elder Abuse Conference All Day Grand Casino Mille Lacs	DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center Honor Our Elders Powwow 1 p.m. DI Powwow Grounds Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center	COH Outreach 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. District II (East Lake) 1 – 4 p.m. District IIa (Isle) Women's Traditions 6 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center Administrative Policy Board 10 a.m. Chiminising Band Assembly Minisinaakwaang ALU DIII Valley Fair Trip (see below)	Ojibwe Bingo 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center	Oshkiniigikwe: Young woman Oshki-inini: Young man
Minwendam: s/he is happy, has a good time Niminwendam: I am happy, having a good time	AmVets Post 53 Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs	General Election (See page 4) 8 a.m. — 8 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog	The Seventh Fire Screening 1, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. Grand Makwa Cinema (see p.9) Wisdom Steps Conference Grand Casino Hinckley	The Seventh Fire Screening (see p.9) Band Assembly Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley Wisdom Steps Conference Grand Casino Hinckley	Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Casino Hinckley	Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Casino Hinckley WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament Grand National Golf Course
Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Casino Hinckley Imbaabaa/indede: my father Gibaabaa/gidede: your father Obaabaayan/ odedeyan: his/her father	DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. DII Community Center	COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers	Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center	Administrative Policy Board 10 a.m. DI Government Center Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers`	Ojibwe Bingo 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Circle of Strength and Healing (Follow up to the Roundtable Discussions. 1-day conference — FREE) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center	25 Birch Bark Basket Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing? How is it outside? Aabawaa: It is warm, mild weather Gizhaate: It is hot weather	Dewe'igan: drum Niimi-iwe: S/he holds a dance	Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. District I (Mille Lacs) Community Center Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center	Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center	Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake	DIII Valley Fair Trip Thursd to sign up with Jessica at early as you can. See page 14 for more Jun	, Lake Lena center. Sign up







Ben Sam graduated from St. Scholastica. His cap said, "Educate the Indian, Save the World," as a comment on the old boardingschool motto "Kill the Indian, Save the Man." After his Facebook post drew a lot of attention, Ben said, "I don't wear these words for myself. I chose to coin this phrase and wear these letters for those who went before me and those who will hurt after me. Family, friends, distant ancestors, millions affected by a history of painful memories, I hope to move forward and change every life I can along the way. I love you all."

Reporters Wanted

The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the Inaajimowin newsletter, millelacsband.com, and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos, or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@ millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability.

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millelacsband.com



Kickboxing Event Features Band Members

Warriors Xtreme Muay Thai Kickboxers will hit the arena June 4 at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events and Convention Center. Antonio Dvorak and Nate Richardson will be featured, along with Mille Lacs Band members Matt Hatfield and Cayman Audie. Tickets are \$40 ringside and \$20 general admission. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

For more information call 320-385-0262 or email warriorsfp@yahoo.com.

Housing Issues

If you need assistance with an unanswered housing question, please contact Bonnie Matrious at 320-532-7841, and she will connect you with the appropriate Community Development staff member to answer your questions. Miigwech!

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VOLUME 18 NUMBER 07



ANISHINAABEG ANNIVERSARY

25TH HINCKLEY POWWOW IS ONE FOR THE AGES

PAGE 7

Four traditional jingle dress dancers helped lead the Grand Entry at the Grand Celebration Powwow in Hinckley on June 18. Left to right: Rebecca Roberts, Karla Smallwood, Jenny Joseph, Shianna Smallwood. For a story on Karla, see page 11.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER GRADUATE TOGETHER HHS ADDRESSES **CHRONIC ADDICTION**

LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE RECEIVES HONOR

FORMER GANG MEMBER EARNS DEGREE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE BENJAMIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! June was a month filled with conferences and learning opportunities for Band members. As I write this column, we just finished our Circle of Healing and Strength Conference at Grand Casino Hinckley. This was the first of two conferences my office is hosting this summer to find community-based solutions to the drug crisis that has impacted our community. It was well attended by Band members from all ends of the spectrum, including people in recovery, those still struggling with addiction, family members, and providers. Information was shared about the science behind addiction and new medical approaches were shared. Attendees were very interested in the presentation by tribal police and had many questions about law enforcement. The second conference will be held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs later this summer, and will focus more on the cultural aspects of solutions, prevention and recovery.

Earlier in the week, I attended the Leadership Conference hosted by the Corporate Commission at Grand Casino Hinckley. This was an outstanding conference attended by people from all over the country, representing many different governments and industries. The focus was on "servant leadership," a business philosophy spreading throughout corporate America. Servant leadership means putting the needs of others first and yourself second, and is based on values such as compassion, respect, humility and courage rather than just making money. While this philosophy is new to corporate America, it is actually based on our age-old Anishinaabe cultural teachings. So apparently corporate America is just catching up to us!

On June 7–8, we held our annual Elder Abuse conference, and on June 15–16 we hosted the statewide Wisdom Steps Conference, which was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. One common theme was that our elders have a right to live out their lives in dignity, safety and in wellness.

I want to close by updating you about one recent development. By now, many Band members have heard that Mille Lacs County voted to terminate our mutual aid law enforcement agreement effective on July 21. This agreement enabled our 32 full-time tribal police officers to enforce state law in the northern portion of the County and assist and respond to 911 calls placed by our non-Indian neighbors in addition to Band members.

The County's decision to end this agreement does not deprive the Band of law enforcement authority. As a sovereign Nation, the Band has inherent authority under federal and tribal law to protect Band members and other Indian people without needing an agreement with Mille Lacs County. "Inherent tribal sovereignty" means our right to be self-governing from time immemorial — we always had that right and will always have it. The Band also retains significant law enforcement authority under State law without the agreement with Mille Lacs County, and has a separate law enforcement agreement with Pine County that remains in full force and effect.

You should also know that Mille Lacs County is required to provide law enforcement service to all citizens of Mille Lacs County, including Indian and non-Indians on the reservation, and we expect them to fulfill that obligation. Unfortunately, the County's decision to end the law enforcement agreement may hurt our non-Indian neighbors and friends by denying them swift response from tribal police when help is needed. It may also hurt all Mille Lacs County taxpayers. Some have estimated it could cost the County an additional \$2.7 million per year to replace the service our officers currently provide to all Mille Lacs county citizens.

A separate article in this paper explains the history behind this development, but the short description of what happened is this: In 2013, the Band applied to the federal government under the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) to get help we desperately need to fight violent crime on the reservation. Mille Lacs County informed the federal government that it **objected** to our application because it encompassed our entire reservation, claiming that our reservation no longer exists. Although the federal government had repeatedly concluded that our reservation remains intact, in response to the County's objections it undertook a new analysis of the issue. At the conclusion of its research, federal officials issued an "M Opinion" affirming the long-held position of the United States that our reservation has always existed and always will. Despite what the County is now saying, the Band did not request the M Opinion. In fact, it was the County's own actions that resulted in federal attorneys writing the M Opinion. By objecting to our application, the County played politics with our efforts to get federal help for law enforcement, and is now

playing politics with the public safety of its own citizens.

There are a number of things to keep in mind. First, under the laws of Minnesota and Public Law 83-280, the State and the County have a legal obligation to provide law enforcement services to all Minnesotans within their jurisdiction — this includes all parts of the Mille Lacs Reservation. Second, the Tribal Police Department will continue to protect Band members under the inherent sovereign powers of the Band. Third, because of our agreement with Pine County and several provisions of state law, our officers will continue to be a recognized law enforcement entity in Minnesota. Fourth, the Federal Tribal Law and Order Act will become effective at the beginning of next year. This means for certain major crimes, persons accused of crimes might be tried in Federal court and face a Federal prison sentence. This will be a limited number of crimes — and was put in place to curtail the gangs, the violence and the drug problem on the Reservation.

The meaning of all this is that Band members will continue to have police protection. The State, the Band and now the Federal government are protecting the homes, property, Elders, children and all Band members and non-Band members. The County action, outside of costing County taxpayers more money, will have no impact on Band members. The only persons who may be harmed are non-Indians in the Northern part of the County and the taxpayers of the County, which will have to come up with the money to replace tribal law enforcement for non-Indian citizens.

Mille Lacs County is playing politics with the lives and pocketbooks of its own citizens, and unfortunately County citizens will pay the price. As always, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has kept its word. Mille Lacs County is breaking their word to us. But this time, the only people they are jeopardizing are our non-Indian neighbors and friends. We will continue to keep Band Members informed and safe. Miigwech!





A Special Day

Nay Ah Shing Upper School students celebrated graduation with their families and friends June 2. Pictured are Valedictorian Brittany Eagle, Shawntel Jellum, Edward Nadeau, Aaron Nayquonabe and Tehya Wade. They were inspired by speeches from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Deputy Administrator of Education Ed Minnema, and they gave their own speeches in Ojibwemowin. They presented roses and blankets to their loved ones, and they were treated to a wonderful dinner by the school's nutrition program staff. Counselor Heather Sasse was Master of Ceremonies, and Principal Noah Johnson and School Board Member Semira Kimpson presented diplomas.



Job Well Done

Nay Ah Shing fifth-graders were honored at a graduation ceremony June 1. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was the guest speaker, and Principal Jane Harstad, teacher Bambi O'Hern and Deputy Administrator of Education Ed Minnema offered their congratulations. Photo by Bill Jones.

Mille Lacs County Board Votes to Terminate Law Enforcement Agreement

Mille Lacs County is once again attempting to undermine the Band's sovereignty and question the status of the 1855 Reservation.

The Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on June 21 revoking the law enforcement agreement that addresses the manner in which the Tribal Police Department executes law enforcement services under Minnesota law. The termination of the agreement will be effective July 21.

Solicitor General Todd Matha said the action means that state criminal arrest authority will largely fall on the State and County. He expects them to "fulfill their obligations to provide robust law enforcement services on the Reservation regardless of the status of the cooperative agreement, and to provide equal protection to all of the Reservation's residents and visitors."

Matha assured Band members in all districts that "[t]here will be absolutely no impact upon the provision of tribal law enforcement services."

He said the resolution appears to be an attempt by the County to once again deny the boundaries of the Mille Lacs Reservation. "This is not an appropriate or productive way to address those issues," Matha said.

Ironically, the County's resolution accuses the Band of using the criminal justice system "as a tool to address boundary issues."

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin agreed with Matha that the action appears politically motivated. She also reassured Band members that "the level of law enforcement services will remain stable and be unaffected."

She and Matha both said Tribal Police officers will exercise their authority under Federal and Tribal law if no agreement is reached in 30 days. In addition, Matha believes Tribal Police officers will retain significant law enforcement authority under State law, notwithstanding the County's revocation of the law enforcement agreement. The Band has a separate agreement with Pine County, which will not be affected by Mille Lacs County's action.

"Unfortunately for our non-Indian neighbors," Melanie said, "the majority of any negative impact from the County's actions will be felt by our friends who have come to rely upon and value the swift response of Tribal police in the northern portion of Mille Lacs County."

The County's resolution lists several reasons for terminating the agreement:

- The Band's attempt to modify Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, which establishes the authority of the Tribal Police Department to enforce state law. "These changes were focused on allowing the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's law enforcement authority to continue whether or not a cooperative agreement existed in Mille Lacs County," the resolution states.
- The Band's ability to self-refer cases to the U.S. Attorney's
 Office under the Tribal Law and Order Act, which would
 "be a direct violation" of the law enforcement agreement.
- The Band's participation in an Intertribal Violent Offenders
 Task Force Joint Powers Agreement under its "inherent tribal authority," which the County says violates state law.
- The Band's alleged "exercise of law enforcement authority outside of its jurisdiction" and "failure to cooperate and coordinate with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, which has jurisdictional authority throughout all of Mille Lacs County" according to Public Law 280.

Matha said that none of these reasons has merit. Nothing in the agreement prevents the Band from seeking changes in State law or from exercising its authority under federal law — whether by referring cases to the United States for prosecution, participating in an intertribal task force, or exercising its inherent law enforcement authority within its reservation. In each case, the County is objecting to the Band's initiatives to improve law enforcement for the benefit of all reservation residents. The objections are rooted in the County's desire to control the Band's law enforcement activities, deny the Band's inherent sovereign authority and disestablish its reservation, not a good faith dispute regarding the Band's compliance with the existing agreement.

The County resolution concludes that "the relationship between Mille Lacs County and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe regarding law enforcement is no longer cooperative" and "no longer serves the interest of public safety for the benefit of all residents in Mille Lacs County." However, according to Matha, the County has been threatening to terminate the agreement since it was first informed that the Band would be applying for concurrent federal criminal jurisdiction on the reservation.

The County requests that the Band cooperate with an audit of the Tribal Police Department's evidence room and turn over all contents to the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office prior to the termination of the agreement. Matha said that the Band objects to the request for an audit.

Boundary dispute

The resolution also states that "Mille Lacs County rejects the conclusions of the M-Opinion and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's use of the criminal justice system to address the disputed boundary of the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation."

Last November, the Office of the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of Interior released Solicitor's Opinion M-37032, a legal opinion concluding that the 1855 Reservation boundaries are still intact, contradicting claims by the State and the County that the reservation was diminished and disestablished by subsequent treaties and laws.

The opinion presents a detailed analysis of the facts and concludes that the Band and Federal position is correct.

The M-Opinion was prepared as part of the federal government's January decision to grant the Band's request for federal law enforcement help under the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act.

The County's obsession with the boundaries, which have little effect on non-Indian residents of the County, led to a law-suit filed in 2001 by the County against the Band. The suit was ultimately dismissed (after the County and Band spent over two million dollars on the case) because the County could not show it had been harmed in any way by the Band's position regarding the boundaries.

The County's resolution says the Band "deliberately withheld" the M-opinion for five months, even though the opinion was made available to the public in January on the website of the Interior Department.

Stories on the Band website and in the Inaajimowin, which are available to the public, made reference to the TLOA decision and the M-Opinion, as did posts on the Band's social media sites beginning in January.

According to Band Solicitor General Matha, the County Attorney indicated that he was aware of the M-Opinion in February, and the scope of the TLOA decision was specifically discussed at a meeting that month. A direct link to the Opinion was provided on the Band's website and in the Inaajimowin in May.

Noting that the county has spent millions of dollars employing private attorneys to fight nearly everything the Band does, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin remarked, "My responsibility is to Mille Lacs Band Members. At the State of the Band Address in January, I told nearly 1000 Band Members about this development in detail. It is not my job to assist their attorneys in monitoring public documents for Mille Lacs County."

Another example of irony: It was the County's objection to the Band's position regarding the reservation boundaries in the Band's Tribal Law and Order Act application that led to the creation of the new M-Opinion. (To read or download the opinion, go to https://solicitor.doi.gov/opinions/M-37032.pdf)

Impact

The termination of the agreement will have major ramifications for the Tribal Police, according to the County resolution. In essence, the County claims that "the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe shall not have the powers of a law enforcement agency."

Attached to the County's resolution is a long list titled "Transitioning of Tribal Law Enforcement Agreements," including the following:

- Tribal Police will no longer have access to the Criminal Justice Information System Data Exchange or other criminal tracking and analysis data.
- Tribal Police will need to deliver all government records under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act to Mille Lacs and Pine counties.
- Tribal Police will no longer have access to Automated License Plate Reader data.
- Tribal Police will no longer have a Mutual Aid agreement with the County and other law enforcement agencies.
- Tribal Police will no longer have access to ARMER, the statewide emergency radio network.

However, Matha pointed out that the County's position disregards applicable provisions of state law, the Pine County agreement, and the Band's inherent law enforcement authority under federal law.

Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh told the Mille Lacs Messenger on June 21 that the County's decision was "the inevitable result of a series of decisions made by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe." He said he would do all he could to try to put together a new law enforcement agreement.

In May, Walsh told the Inaajimowin that he hoped the County and Band were at "the beginning of a new chapter of our relationship that will continue to improve for our mutual benefit."

He referred to the "acrimonious" history between the County and Band and said, "I am convinced that neither party will be able to achieve its goals until we put this history behind us and work toward achieving common goals together."

Historical background

The law enforcement agreement was required by Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, as a condition for the Band to appoint peace officers under state law. It was passed in 1991 by the State Legislature as an alternative to retroceding State criminal jurisdiction within the reservation to the United States. The statute applies throughout the Band's trust lands and the entire 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation as established by the Treaty of 1855.

Because Minnesota is a Public Law 280 state, the state has criminal jurisdiction on reservations, with the exception of Red Lake and Bois Forte

The agreement functioned well until 2007, when the Band pulled out of the agreement because the county was demanding to see all Tribal Police reports — not just those involving enforcement of state law.

The Band said its officers could enforce Band law throughout the 61,000 acres, but the County said it could not.

A new agreement was signed giving the county attorney responsibility for prosecution of any person arrested by Band officers under section 626.90, but conceding that tribal police may act independently of section 626.90, and that in those cases, no report to the county attorney is required.

The agreement also allows tribal police to forward any report to the Band's chief of police or solicitor general, and it does not "authorize, govern or limit the Band's exercise of its own law enforcement authority or the Band's prosecution of any crime or traffic offense within its prosecutorial jurisdiction."

At the time, county negotiators, including Commissioner Frank Courteau and private attorney Randy Thompson, called the agreement "fragile." Courteau, who has since left the area, said, "It may last 10 minutes and it may last 10-plus years."

National News Briefs

Against Abuse: In a unanimous decision, the US Supreme Court ruled that convictions in tribal courts can be used against domestic abusers in state and federal trials. The ruling in U.S. v. Bryant is an important step in helping protect Native women from abuse and is also an important reaffirmation of tribal sovereignty. Native women and girls are two and a half times more likely to be sexually assaulted by a partner than their non-Native counterparts; this decision strengthens laws designed to prevent that abuse such as the Violence Against Women Act and the Tribal Law and Order Act.

Artifacts Protected: More than 700 archaeologists have signed a letter to President Obama urging him to designate a Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. The Bears Ears region is America's most significant unprotected cultural landscape famous for its preserved back-country cliff dwellings, rock art panels, surface sites, artifacts, and Native American burials. A coalition of five sovereign tribal nations proposed a 1.9 million-acre national monument that would honor Native American connections to the land and protect cultural resources. Currently, grave robbing, looting, and serious damage continues at Bears Ears because there is no bill in Congress to protect it. The letter urges Obama to create a national monument if Congress fails to pass meaningful laws to protect the area.

Trust Reform: Congress just passed a bill, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, that enables tribes to take greater control of their trust funds and trust assets. The bill also establishes an Under Secretary for Indian Affairs to oversee all Indian programs at the Special Trustee for American Indians department. This is the first major trust reform bill to clear Congress since 1994, and comes after tribes and tribal organizations have advocated for change.

Gridlock Broken? In the last two months, Senator Al Franken and fellow members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs have been moving quickly on a number of important pieces of legislation. In contrast to the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaskan Native Affairs, which has held only two hearings since January, the Senate committee has sent 11 bills to the Senate floor. While nothing has cleared the official chamber yet, Sen. Jon Tester, vice chairman of the committee, says they are a sign of moving Indian Country forward.





History Week

Sierra Edwards and Chris Gahbow demonstrated Anishinaabe dance and music as part of Brainerd's History Week

Ne-la-Shing Clinic Participates in COAT

Ne-la-Shing Clinic in District I has joined other regional healthcare providers by adopting Chronic Opioid Analgesic Therapy (COAT), a program designed to treat people with long-term dependency.

Opioid addiction has become an epidemic not just on the Mille Lacs Reservation, but across the region and the country. Among the effects have been overdoses, babies born addicted to opiates and a rising number of children in foster care. Burglaries and other crimes are also attributed to desperate action taken by addicts seeking money or drugs.

According to Ne-la-Shing Medical Director Dr. Donald Gunderson, COAT is a cooperative effort among providers in the area to collectively deal with the opioid crisis in our midst. Right now, the medical centers involved are in the initiation phases of this effort.

"One of the initial goals of the program is that of the training and education of providers in so far as the latest information on opioids and their use," said Dr. Gunderson. "Some of the recent findings tell us that the long-term use of opioids for chronic, benign pain may result in rather modest benefits, but at a significant risk to safety to the individual using them."

Dr. Gunderson emphasizes these principles apply to the use of opioids for chronic, benign pain, not pain resulting from malignant disease (cancer).

Recent data, for example, reveals that:

- The chronic use of opioids for chronic, benign pain results in a significant risk of addiction, particularly at higher doses, but also in lower doses in some cases.
- In some cases, it has been shown that the long-term use of opioids actually results in an increase in the pain level, not a decrease.
- At higher doses, the risk of overdose and death increases substantially. There are reported instances of death for no apparent reason in people using high doses of opioids, even if they are used responsibly as they are prescribed. There have been cases such as this reported in our area.

Other aspects of this educational effort will include:

- The use of evidence-based guidelines for the use of opioids for chronic, benign pain.
- A recognition that opioids are, in many cases, not effec-

tive in the long-term treatment of non-cancer pain and may, in fact, be deleterious (may cause harm) over the long-term.

- A recognition of those conditions for which chronic opioid therapy is not indicated. These include headaches, fibromyalgia and even chronic low-back pain.
- A recognition of the long-term side effects and toxicities associated with chronic opioid therapy.
- A recognition of the public health consequences of the use of chronic narcotic therapy for benign pain. These include addiction, diversion of drugs, and an increased use of other illicit drugs in the community, usually heroin at the present time.

Out of this educational effort, Dr. Gunderson anticipates that standard protocols for the use and monitoring of opioids will be adopted and used by the participants in COAT across the region. Some examples of these protocols may include:

- The development of limits in the dosing of opioids beyond which providers will not prescribe.
- A recommendation for an increased use of multi-disciplinary pain management clinics for those individuals where management of the pain is more difficult.
- For new pain patients a more limited use of opioids and, when they are used, they will be used in lower doses.
- An increased use in other alternative pain medications and adjunctive methods in pain therapy (physical therapy, massage therapy, acupuncture and others).
- In established patients who are on programs of higher doses of opioids, the institution of tapering programs so as to achieve safer dose levels.

"These and other protocols will be developed and adopted by all of the participants in the program," Dr. Gunderson said. "Thus, it will address abuse of opioids by preventing individuals from going from one provider to another ('doctor shopping'). The providers in our area will be following the same guidelines."

Dr. Gunderson envisions ongoing cooperative efforts such as these between medical providers in the area."We believe that this may be one effective tool to address the opioid crisis that we all face daily now," he said.

Family Services in Need of Foster Homes

The nationwide opiate crisis has resulted in a severe shortage of foster homes around the Mille Lacs Band communities. The number of children needing foster care has increased dramatically, and the number of foster families has not kept pace.

Employees of the Family Services Department have issued the following plea to families to consider opening their homes to needy children.

It takes a community to raise a child. Right now, we need the community to come together to provide foster homes for our children when they enter foster care.

We are experiencing a great need for foster homes due to the drug epidemic sweeping our nation. Children and families need our love and support.

During this difficult time the children need us to keep them immersed in their community, culture and family. The children and their families depend on us to keep them together and to provide support to their parents.

We need families to come forward to provide safe homes. Our ultimate goal is reunification. We need foster homes that

can support foster children and their families in that reunification effort.

To become a foster home, all household members must be drug free and must not have had a chemical use problem within the last two years. They need to be able to love foster children and care for them like they are their own.

Each adult household member needs to submit to an Adam Walsh Background Check. Disqualifications include felony level drug and alcohol charges from within the last five years and felony level physical assault and battery charges from within the last five years.

Other disqualifications include any felony level child abuse or neglect, spousal abuse, sexual assault, homicide, or a crime against a child.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Rachel Boyd, Foster Care Supervisor, at 320-630-2663.

Miigwech, Rachel Boyd Foster Care Supervisor

Do you have a photo to submit to Ojibwe Inaajimowin? Email it to myles.gorham@redcircleagency or brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call Brett at 320-237-6851.



District I Voters Re-elect Representative Sandi Blake

Sandi Blake, who has served as District I Representative since 2008, will remain in office for a other four-year term. On June 14, District I voters cast 201 ballots for Blake and 99 for her challenger, Ginger Weyaus.

"For my family, friends, and community, I want to offer my most humble and gracious Miigwech for all of the support in the election," Sandi said. "I could not have done it without everyone who pitched in and came out and voted. Miigwech for your belief in me. I will continue to work hard for Band Membership, and let's go forward together and continue to make our reservation a great place to live."

Sandi and Ginger were the top two finishers in the April primary. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin won re-election in the primary by garnering over 50 percent of the vote.

In her campaign, Sandi stressed her experience and record of accomplishments while pointing out that in Band Assembly, you need to be able to work as part of a team. "One member is seldom responsible for any accomplishments without support from the rest of the Assembly," she said.

Some of the projects that Sandi was a part of were the creation of the Elder Supplemental Income Program, ensuring that Elders would always have some financial stability, and the establishment of Minobimaadiziiwin (Budget Host) Hotel to help deal with homelessness on the reservation. Dollars were also appropriated to the Department of Labor so that jobs could be developed for those who wish to join the workforce. Early Education was expanded through the appropriation and construction of the new Wewinabi building to be able to take great

care of our Abinoojiiyag and their education.

She also spoke of the need to educate children about the dangers of drug use and the importance of language, culture and spirituality. She expressed support for caregivers and community policing and worked with committees to amend various policies.

Other tribes

The Fond du Lac Band elected Kevin Dupuis Sr. as their new chairman, replacing Karen Diver, who was appointed to a post at the White House. He received 622 votes to 442 for Wayne Dupuis.

At White Earth, Terrance "Terry" Tibbetts defeated Melinda (Mindy) Iverson 1,279 to 674 in the election for Chairperson. Eugene (Umsy) Tibbetts defeated Barbara Fabre 485 to 415 for District III Representative.

Travis Morrison won the race for Bois Forte District I Representative with 53 percent of the vote over Karlene Chosa with 47 percent. Cathy Chavers won the Chief Executive election in April by winning over 50 percent of the primary vote. She defeated incumbent Kevin Leecy.

The Leech Lake elections for tribal chair and District III Representative were both decided in the April 5 primary, with Faron Jackson Sr. winning the race for chair and Leroy Fairbanks elected District III Representative.

Incumbent Norman Deschampe was reelected Chairman of the Grand Portage Band with nearly 75 percent of the vote. Vice-Chair Janice Spry was reelected in the primary April 5.

Band Helps Protect Bird Species

When Wildlife Biologist Kelly Applegate came to work for the Mille Lacs Band DNR 10 years ago, one of his duties was to conduct bird surveys on all of the Band's properties.

His identification skills are now paying off for a small bird called the golden-winged warbler.

Kelly knew their population was declining, and as he conducted his surveys he realized that certain Band properties had dense populations of the colorful songbirds.

As the males return to their breeding grounds each spring at a 3,000-acre parcel the Band owns in Morrison County, Kelly can hear the "bee-bzz-bzz" of a male singing every hundred yards.

He realized that the Band had the opportunity to enhance habitat on behalf of the warbler, which would help to strengthen their population.

The Band is teaming up with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to come up with a plan. This will involve harvest of certain stands of trees to promote new growth of aspen among scattered taller, older trees — the kind of setting where golden-winged warblers prosper.

The golden-winged warbler winters in Central America and northern South America and breeds in the eastern United States. They prefer "early successional habitats" which have declined due to forest regeneration, changes in agriculture and forestry practices, and development.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, they have one of the smallest populations of any bird not on the Endangered Species List, which indicates just how rare they are. They are threatened by breeding-ground habitat loss, wintering-ground habitat loss, and hybridization with the blue-winged warbler, which has increased due to climate change.

Their population has declined 66 percent since the 1960s, and the Appalachian population has fallen by 98 percent. They have disappeared from much of their former range. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Manitoba now harbor the strongest remaining breeding populations.

Kelly will work with Jake Horbacz, the Band's forester, to





Left: Golden-winged warbler populations have declined dramatically since the 1960s. Photo by Walt Ford. Right: During surveys, wildlife biologist Kelly Applegate sometimes uses recordings to attract birds.

determine where and how to expand golden-winged warbler habitat.

A 'national park'

Kelly conducts annual bird surveys of Band lands by slowly driving the roads of the parcel, eyes peeled for movement, and ears tuned to bird songs. Sometimes he plays recordings that attract birds, like the sound of a screech owl being mobbed by songbirds, which tends to bring various birds out of hiding to join in the effort to chase the owl away. By that method Kelly has found uncommon species like black-backed woodpeckers breeding on the property.

The 3,000-acre parcel is used by Band members who hunt and trap, but also to monitor the health of the central Minnesota region. Kelly also conducts small mammal surveys, which help him estimate their populations as an indicator of the health of the forest.

He's seen wolves, bears and bobcats on the property, as well as mountain lion tracks. Other species like deer and snowshoe hares are thriving, but Kelly is concerned that climate change may be affecting the snowshoe hare. The hares' white winter coats make them stand out to predators when spring comes early, making them more vulnerable than ever.

"National governments have National Parks," said Kelly, as he leaned out the window listening for bird calls. "This property is kind of like the Mille Lacs Band's national park. We're able to conduct studies here to make sure we're protecting the land for future generations."

State and Local News

History Matters: During Brainerd History Week, members of the Brainerd community learned about an important part of Ojibwe culture. Mille Lacs Band member Jamie Edwards and his daughter Sierra presented on the tradition of jingle dresses at Brainerd High School. Sierra Edwards demonstrated the jingle dress dance alongside drumming and singing, and then answered questions about the dress and about Ojibwe culture in general at the schoolwide assembly. This was an important moment of sharing about the Ojibwe culture to the surrounding community.

Offensive Art: A long-running fight about art at the State Capitol is nearing a conclusion. The Capitol Preservation Commission's subcommittee on art, a group of 15 academics and members of the public, have been debating what to do with nearly 150 pieces of art at the Capitol. The pieces incite emotional debate between those that want to preserve the Capitol as it was, and those that think the building's art — particularly the way it portrays Native Americans — needs to be updated. Altering the Capitol's art would be an opportunity to change the way Minnesota presents itself and its history to the public — a history that was previously depicted and created by white men. The recommendations are expected from the subcommittee in the coming weeks.

It's a Deal: The ongoing legal dispute between the Fond du Lac Band and the City of Duluth has finally been resolved. The settlement calls for the Band to pay the city \$150,000 a year in exchange for dropping the litigation over whether it's entitled to a portion of the casino's revenues. The casino employs 235 people in downtown Duluth. This deal provides stability for those employees and creates opportunities for job growth in the future; it's also an agreement that respects the sovereignty of the Band. The deal was announced by Duluth's new Mayor, Emily Larson, and interim chairman of the Fond du Lac Band Wally Dupuis.

Veteran's Victory: David Danielson, a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, has been honored for his military service and given military benefits 41 years after they were due. Danielson served the with U.S. Marines in Cambodia. After his service, he spent years of writing the Department of Defense in an attempt to rectify the errors on his paperwork, finally turning to Minnesota Congressman Rick Nolan with a letter as a last resort. It's a common oversight for Native Americans to not receive appropriate recognition for their service. The ceremony highlighted the importance of recognizing Native Americans and their important role in U.S. military service.

Working Together: In mid-June, representatives from the region's federally recognized Native American tribes met with leaders from Camp Ripley to discuss projects and developments of the Minnesota National Guard. The National Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their work on historic properties and provide tribes the opportunity to advise and make comments on the projects. Discussions ranged from military training to forest and wildlife management to conservation and future projects, concluding with a tour of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Museum.

Fronk Receives V.F.W. Emergency Technician Gold Medal Award

Monte Fronk, who has served the Mille Lacs Band community for 25 years, was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) June 11 with the Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal Award.

Monte was nominated by Jake Shetka, Commander of the Isle VFW. The award, which was presented at the VFW state convention at Grand Hotel in Rochester, reads as follows:

"In recognition and utmost appreciation of his dedication and selfless service to the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department. During Monte Fronk's outstanding career, he has demonstrated a record of extraordinary and courageous service to the community and the nation. His exceptional devotion is illustrative of the esteemed core values and traditions of the profession of emergency responders, further evidenced by the high degree of admiration and respect from both his peers and the local public he serves. Coordinator Monte S. Fronk is truly a premier example of all EMTs and this honor reflects the proudest ideals and values of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

Monte said he was humbled and honored by the award because it showed that a small VFW can have its nomination selected.

He gave credit to his mentors in the EMS, police and the fire services who showed him the importance of serving and living in the community they served.

"My mentors have always been that way," said Monte. "They served and responded to all calls for service day or night whether for someone who just needed a listening ear or to save life and property. They also knew the importance of being active in their communities by being a member of a sports league or serving on boards, coaching or scouting to show they can get along with people who they come in contact with on the job as well as when they are off duty. That was a gift I had, to learn that that's what we're supposed to do.

Monte said he has tried to serve by following the Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers, which Elders and Tribal leaders have passed down in stories and modeled in their lives.

"I also recognize how fortunate I have been to work under the leadership of such nationally known, honored and respected leaders as former Chief Executives Art Gahbow, Marge Anderson and now Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who always reminds us as employees to remember the humble beginning of the Mille Lacs Band Government."

Monte noted that the Band has come a long way since the days of the original brown metal Tribal Government Center building, the community center, which became the first Nay Ah Shing School, and the original clinic.

Monte was on duty the night the casino opened at Mille Lacs and remembers the wood chips that they put down on the ground to help the cars. He also remembers many of the events recounted in David MacArthur's book "The Day the Water Tower Froze."

In his characteristic way, Monte — as a Chiminising resident — was just as happy for Jake Shetka as he was for himself. "Jake is very proud that his nomination from our little community was accepted," Monte said. "It's nice to see that it's not always the big city VFWs that have their nominations accepted."

According to the VFW, "the award is presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of emergency service might know that their dedication and good will are appreciated. And, we also hope, that by making such an award, our fellow citizens will be reminded of the special efforts and sacrifices made by this nation's many emergency medical technicians."

Monte pointed out that Emergency Medical Responders and EMTs owe a lot to those military medics, corpmen, and PJs (pararescuemen) who bring what they learned on the battlefield into the civilian world, introducing new methods to help those in need of medical attention. He's proud of the way the Band honors its ogichidaag and ogichidaakweg, especially knowing that many of them were combat medics in WWII and Vietnam.

The criteria for the award are as follows:

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and the

community;

- Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation's citizens; on a full-time or a volunteer basis;
- 3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire or emergency safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state and the nation.

The VFW website states, "The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in presenting the awards to the Public Safety Community, appreciates the fact that there are many members of the community throughout the nation who meet these rigorous standards. It is our hope that by granting this distinguished award, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will call national attention not only to the dedicated services of the recipient, but to all those other deserving who share the attributes and accomplishments for which the Gold Medal Award represents."



Monte Fronk was given the Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal Award at the VFW state convention in Rochester June 11 by Gary Kurpius, VFW Past National Commander-in-Chief (left) and State Commander Duane Hermanson (center).

Band Hosts Two Conferences for Elders in June

Elders were the focus of two conferences hosted by the Mille Lacs Band in June: an Elder Abuse Educational Conference at Grand Casino Mille Lacs June 7 and 8 and a Wisdom Steps conference at Grand Casino Hinckley June 14–16.

The Elder Abuse Education Conference was organized by the Elder Services Program, led by Elder Services Coordinator Denise Sargent.

The conference began with an opening prayer by Joe Nayquonabe, an Honor Song by Timber Trails, and welcoming remarks by Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

The keynote speaker was Fran King, who works with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Area Agency on Aging.

Breakout sessions covered five topics: Dementia, and Strategies for Caregivers Support by Susan Lyback; Boundaries, Tough Love and Holding Families Accountable, by George Goggleye; Power of Attorney, Scams, and Living Wills, by Band Member Legal Aid; Reporting Abuse, Co-dependency, Cost of Looking the Other Way, by Denise Lindquist; and Drug Abuse, by Michale Reyes and Patty Bittner.

The conference culminated with an Honor Our Elders Powwow on Wednesday, June 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. (see page 16).

Wisdom Steps

The Wisdom Steps Conference brought Elders from around the state to learn and celebrate healthy lifestyles. The event included healthy activities, education, a fashion show, prizes and awards.

Each year, as part of the conference, Elders are recognized for participating in health screenings and completing one of three activities: attending a health fair, doing routine exercise or participation in an organized walk.

The conference offered numerous educational opportunities with vendor booths from organizations including the Social Security Administration, the Mille Lacs Band Family Violence Prevention Program, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Indian Health Service, Veterans Affairs, the National Indian Council on Aging and the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Workshops were held on Sacred Tobacco, Healing Touch, Eye Health and Mouth Health. Vendors sold arts and crafts and clothing throughout the conference.

At the Awards Ceremony on June 15, Joe Nayquonabe gave the invocation, and Swamp Nation played a Flag Song.

Attendees were entertained by comedian Jeff Gerbino prior to dinner. Also addressing the crowd were Wisdom Steps Chair Marie Spry, Minnesota Board of Aging Chair Don Samuelson,

Exeutive Director Kari Benson and American Indian Elder Desk Liaison Paulette Baukol.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin addressed the conference earlier in the day.

Ferninand Martineau of the Fond du Lac Band was given the Alan Allery Award by Chris Allery. After dinner, Barb Benjamin-Robertson, who has been on

the Wisdom Steps board since the grounp was founded, led a Round Dance while Swamp Nation played.

Wisdom Steps is a program to help Native American Elders decide how they want to obtain and maintain optimal health. Wisdom Steps provides tools and education, and Elders volunteer to participate and are recognized for their efforts.

Wisdom Steps began in Minnesota in 1999 as a partnership among the eleven Minnesota Indian tribes, three urban areas (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Duluth and Bemidji) and the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Wisdom Steps encourages Elders to take simple steps toward better health. Activities such as participating in health screenings, attending a health education class, or enjoying a healthy living activity are promoted.

Elders learn that the path to health is easy and can be walked by visiting with a physician and setting a personal health goal like losing weight or stopping smoking.

Silver Anniversary for Grand Celebration Powwow

The dancing was spectacular, the regalia magnificent, the music inspiring, the fry bread delicious and the weather ideal (well, maybe a little warm). All-in-all, visitors to the 2016 Grand Celebration Powwow at Grand Casino Hinckley June 17—19 witnessed what has made the powwow a can't-miss summer event during its 25-year history. Howah to the great team of organizers who made the Grand Celebration a success.























Tonight He Travels Without Me

Arne Vainio, M.D. Guest Writer



George Earth and I traveled across Minnesota and then across South Dakota so I could speak at a conference a couple of years ago. I was supposed to fly, but George told me he always wanted to see the Black Hills, and at 79 years old, he didn't

think he had many chances left.

We took turns driving and spent the better part of a day in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We crossed the big sky country of Wyoming on the way to the Wind River Mountains, and George told me stories about growing up, about boarding school when he was young and being released from school to pick potatoes with his parents in the huge potato fields of North Dakota. He told me stories of traveling all day on muddy roads with his dad's Model T and his mother holding a kerosene lantern for heat and for the lights for the car. His dad put tire patches over other tire patches, and even as a kid George was good at helping change tires. A good used inner tube was four dollars, and one with only a few patches was two dollars.

His dad always got the two dollar one.

"The old people used to tell stories when the sun went down in the winter. It was still early, and the kids would be in bed and the elders would tell creation stories in Ojibwe and they never spoke English when they told those stories. They could only be told in Ojibwe."

One time he worked as a lumberjack on an island for a whole summer, and he got paid over three hundred dollars and he bought a black Ford convertible with a white top. He and a friend got all dressed up and drove to a town close to the Canadian border. "Some girls started flirting with us and they got into the car and we were riding around. Some of the guys in that town didn't like that, and they followed us, so I turned into an alley and I couldn't turn around. There were too many of them and they beat us up. When I came to, the tires on my car were slashed, all the spark plug wires were gone, and I didn't have enough money to fix the car. I had to leave the car at a garage and we agreed to go into another logging camp and I had to cut wood for 3 months again before I had enough money to fix that car."

He spent years drinking and working off and on. He and a friend lived in an old abandoned car for over a year in St. Paul, and they would go to the shelter at the church every day to have breakfast and take showers and try to find work for the day.

He forgot about his traditions, and his drinking spiraled out of control

"One day I was drinking with everyone else in the park

by Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, and I decided that was enough. I took all the beer and wine out of the trunk of my car and I put it on the picnic table in front of them and I told them I was done and they laughed at me."

Someone in recovery gave him a vest and a bustle to wear, and he started dancing as a traditional dancer at powwows. "It took me a long time to remember some of the things those old people tried to tell me, and finding my traditions again saved me." George has been a traditional dancer since then, and his dance outfit was given to him over time by friends and sometimes by dancers who were too old to keep dancing but wanted their regalia to stay in the powwow circle. "When I dance, every step is a prayer for healing for all Indian people."

He had a guitar with nylon strings and "Man, I could really sing! I used to play at weddings, even. I played everything from Johnny Cash to Merle Haggard, and people would really like it when I brought out that guitar."

Last summer he was supposed to travel with me to the Association of American Indian Physicians annual meeting just north of Seattle. He was really excited about seeing hundreds of Native American doctors and medical students and health professionals and he would have much to teach in return.

He was too short of breath to make the trip, and his breathing problems were getting rapidly worse. He saw a lung specialist, and it wasn't long before he was on oxygen. He had more and more difficulty traveling and last spring he danced at a powwow and realized he couldn't make it all the way around the circle. At the end of the summer he passed all of his dance regalia to me and I danced for the first time at the Cha Cha Bah Ning traditional powwow in Inger, Minnesota wearing George's dance regalia as George watched from a chair under the trees at the edge of the circle. A young grass dancer and I became friends and we were dancing together. I watched George slowly make his way across the ring and he sat at one of the drums. I could see his arm rising and falling in unison with the other singers, and I tried to separate out his voice from the others, but I couldn't. His voice blended in perfectly with the song and with the wind blowing through the trees.

He made his last trip here a month or so ago and, "I brought something I want you to have." His breathing has been getting steadily worse, and on this last trip he didn't get out of the van to come into the house. He watched me open the guitar case on the driveway next to the van. Inside was his guitar from a long time ago and it hadn't been opened or played in decades.

"It's beautiful, but I don't know how to play a guitar, George."

"You'll learn. I did."

We've been talking almost every day on the phone, and

sometimes I call him late at night. I go outside and I listen to the night and I tell him what I see and what I hear. We've heard the first frogs together and we've heard geese migrating together, and one night last spring I was sitting in the darkness and I could hear a steady, but quiet popping sound everywhere in the woods and it sounded like a gentle rain, but the sky was clear. It took me a long time to realize it was the new spring grass slowly growing, and as it pushed on the leaves, a leaf would fall to the side and make a small, singular sound. Multiplied by all those blades of grass and leaves and the sound was steady and only at night when the wind was gone. It would have sounded crazy to tell anyone but George I was listening to the grass grow. He understood it fully and he stayed on the phone as I described it to him in detail.

Today George got sick really fast and was having a hard time breathing. I got a call as I was finishing clinic that he had pneumonia and they were thinking he might need to be on a ventilator. On the way home I got another call that his blood pressure was really low and that he had an infection in his blood. By the time I got home he was getting CPR in the hospital, but they were unable to save him and he died.

I started a fire outside and we made a spirit dish with the food from our meal and some of the traditional tobacco I make. In Ojibwe, I thanked the spirits who watch over us and invited all of them to share this meal with us. After our meal, I took the spirit dish with the food and burned it in the fire with the tobacco.

I've been watching that fire all night and it's almost 6 a.m. The sun will be coming up soon. All night I've been tending the fire and I sit next to it and I listen to the night for awhile, then I come in and write for awhile, then I go back outside to tend and sit by the fire. The frogs just started singing in the past few nights, and I've had plenty of opportunity to sit and listen to the night. I can hear the gentle popping sound everywhere in the woods and it sounds like a gentle rain.

The grass is growing.

Giigawaabamin, George. I will dance your regalia and I will remember every step is a prayer. I will try to learn some Johnny Cash songs.

And I will see you again.

Arne Vainio, MD (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Member) is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac Ojibwe reservation in northern Minnesota. He has been writing health articles for News From Indian Country and other tribal and non-tribal newspapers for over 5 years.





Urban Office Graduation Celebration

Band members and their families gathered at the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis to recognize the academic, athletic and cultural accomplishments of their school-age children on Monday, June 20. The annual event, sponsored by the Band's Urban Office, celebrates the success of the youth, with a gathering that offers congratulations and encouragement for a job well done during the school year.

Walking a Better Path — Destination Unknown

"I sobered up for myself, but

I stay sober for them, in order

to be a role model for them.

to show them that someone

can turn their life around and

become a positive person in

the community."

— Arlyn Sam

who came from the gutter

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Arlyn Sam was an angry young man. "I had a big chip on my shoulder," he said. "I was that kind of person who wanted to hate you before you hated me. I looked at people and wanted to strike fear into them."

After a couple rough decades, all that has changed. Arlyn graduated this year from Central Lakes College, and next fall he'll continue his education at St. Cloud State University.

He even had the honor of carrying the Mille Lacs Band flag at graduation. "It gave me a sense of pride to represent my tribe," he said. "It shows that we're moving on to bigger and better things by educating ourselves, creating a foothold in society."

It's been a long road. After moving to District I from Brainerd as a teenager, Arlyn was looking to fit in. He started running with a gang in Minneapolis and Vineland — stealing, fighting, shooting, selling and drinking. Lots of drinking.

"It wasn't pretty," he recalled. "I did some nasty things to some nice people. When you're young you don't think about how life is going to be affected by the choices you make."

Arlyn's parents, Betty and Henry Sam, were good role models. His mother worked hard and attended college when Arlyn was a kid

His dad, who passed away in 2001, spoke to Arlyn manto-man, even when he was a teenager.

"My dad sobered up when I was six," Arlyn said. "It was really good to have him around. He loved life, and he taught me a lot about my culture and being a man."

At the time Arlyn couldn't follow his father's advice. He cared more about his friends and the next party.

He graduated from Nay Ah Shing and eventually left the gang behind — even though he was jumped and shot at for his decision.

"When I was in that life, it was all about brotherhood, but once I made the decision to

leave, a lot of those guys who said 'I got your back, through thick and thin,' they were no longer there," Arlyn said. "I feel like all gang members are individualistic, and they're out for themselves, not anybody else."

One thing Arlyn couldn't leave behind was alcohol. He calls himself a "functional alcoholic" who held down jobs at the casino and in construction. He had kids but wasn't a major part of

their lives. He tried to support them financially, but their mothers didn't always want him around.

After hurting his back, he started college at Central Lakes, but his drinking got in the way. "I still had a chip on my shoulder," he said. "I wanted to go in and do my thing and leave, not really reach out and use the resources that were available."

As with many recovering alcoholics, he had to hit bottom, and the low point became the turning point. A college friend told him he should think about quitting, and after a bad night of drinking, he finally took his advice and said, "I'm done."

He started attending AA, but his meeting attendance declined over time, and a year into his sobriety, he felt himself slipping. He knew that one bad experience would lead him to drink — so he started attending meetings again.

"I didn't want to attend," he said. "They make you think about the past, the people you've wronged, and I was the kind of person who didn't want to think about my past. When I actually did go it just spilled out of me, everything that ever happened to me, everything I'd ever done, how alcohol affected me. I talked for 20 minutes about my life and how it had fallen apart, and I was crying and sobbing."

Although his struggles continued, Arlyn persevered. This time around, he brought a different attitude to his education

— and it paid off.

"I started working at the college, opening myself up to a lot of different things, and everyone at the college started to see it," Arlyn said. "I started to smile more, to attend more events, to be part of the community. As I opened myself I met a lot of people who were in AA and were sober."

As his attitude changed, he found support from mentors. When times were tough, he'd stop in at Mary Sam's office for encouragement. He worked in the TRIO program, where he was inspired by the director, Charles Black Lance, who mod-

eled what it meant to be a successful Native American man.

Back home at the reservation, his cousin Bradley Harrington Jr. showed him the benefits of sobriety, and Joe Nayquonabe Sr. supported him in his efforts to rediscover his culture.

"I told him I wanted to come back to the Big Drum, to do my duties. Joe said, 'When I was where you are, that really turned my life around, and I'm sure it will help you as well.' Now I'm



Arlyn Sam smiles more now, and people have started to notice. "My sobriety has awakened me, and I've bloomed to where I'm accepting and walking a better path," he says.

trying to embrace my culture and pass on that teaching to my kids.

"I sobered up for myself, but I stay sober for them, in order to be a role model for them, to show them that someone who came from the gutter can turn their life around and become a positive person in the community."

Nowadays he speaks to his sons the way his father spoke to him — as adults. "There's times when I'm talking to my son when I can actually hear my dad's voice. I want my kids to talk to me, to know we're in this together, to know that I love them. I want them to hear it come from my mouth because it's reassuring to know your father loves you."

Arlyn doesn't know where his current road is leading, but he does know he's on the right path. "My sobriety has awakened me, and I've bloomed to where I'm accepting and walking a better path," he said. "It's a trail in the darkness, but I can control what I do now.

"I'm sure my mom is super proud of the person I've become, and I'm sure my dad would be proud of me too. That's who I strive to be: somebody he would be proud of."

Camp Promises to Educate and Encourage Teenage Girls

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Teenage girls who are looking for an enlightening summer activity might want to consider attending a free three-day camp tailored specifically for them.

The 6th Annual Teen Girl's Camp, sponsored by the Family Violence Prevention Sexual Assault Program, is still seeking applicants. The camp is designed for girls between the ages of 13 and 17 years old and will be held Aug. 3–5 at the Immersion Grounds in Rutledge.

The topics for the camp — Educate, Encourage and Support — will be age appropriate and will be offered in an environment that will allow the youth to feel at ease with the subject

matter, said Rena Hales, the District Services Coordinator for the Family Violence Prevention Program.

Topics covered will include healthy sexual relationships, abstinence and birth control, and this year there will be a focus on how opiate use can impact babies. A nurse from the Band's Public Health Department will also be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

Campers will also learn about preventing dating violence and how to help a friend if they are in an unhealthy relationship

Another goal of the camp is to introduce girls to strong role

models and let them learn from the wisdom and expertise of the Elders.

Rena is also inviting Band Elders to teach the girls about women's ceremonies, Anishinaabe culture and traditional crafts.

The girls will have an opportunity to have fun, too. There are games, crafts and other activities planned during the event. The application deadline is July 17. Space is limited, so register early.

For an application or more information contact Rena at 320-292-1566 or Rena.Hales@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

'Growing Committee' Helps Bring Healthy Food to Districts

Brett Larson Staff Writer

They call themselves the "growing committee," which is appropriate for two reasons: They're working on "growing" healthy foods in all three districts, and the committee itself is "growing" as more and more people get involved in the Band's Integrated Food Systems program.

The program is a collaboration between the tribal government, Honor the Earth, and the communities in all three districts. So far, they've built greenhouses, set up garden boxes at individuals' homes, and started plants at community gardens.

The Growing Committee met on June 14 at the Public Health building in District I to plan a flurry of activity to keep the program moving forward.

Kristian Theisz, Emergency Services Director with Health and Human Services, chaired the meeting. He was joined by Band employees Kevin Pawlitschek, Lisa Benjamin, Geraldine Garbow and Nick Benjamin, and Honor the Earth employees John Smekofska, Melanie Garbow and Lila White. He also announced that Sam St. John would be joining the Honor the Earth team. "Hats off to everyone here," said Kristian. "You guys have been kicking butt."

That's for sure. The team has delivered 130 4-foot-by-6-foot garden boxes, many of them to Elders, in all five communities. They have developed a layout plan for the boxes and provided the starter plants — tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, beans, cabbage, peppers and cucumbers — making it easy for novice

gardeners to know what to plant, and where.

As time goes on, excess plants will be sold to Band businesses or given to schools, ALU food programs, food shelves and elders.

Next on the agenda are several larger scale projects: a 14-acre site in Chiminising, a 40-acre parcel in Minisinaakwaang (District II), the old Sodbusters property in District I, and a 600-acre farm in District III, which may someday be used for animal agriculture.

This fall they'll build additional greenhouses in each district to start plants for next year's program.

The larger sites will be divided between "standard" varieties to be marketed and more unique heirloom and heritage plants. Each district will specialize in some of these traditional varieties.

For example, East Lake will plant White Flint corn (which was gifted to the community from Honor the Earth), Lakota squash, Purple Cowhorn potato, berries, hazelnuts and a maple sugarbush. The Sodbusters property will focus on Purple Mountain corn, Jerusalem artichokes and "Old Man" squash.

The program is also seeking funding to develop food policies and to create an agricultural research facility in District II. They're looking to fund as many projects as possible through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Indian Health Service, and the Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program.

For now, the plan they developed at their June 14 meeting will keep them occupied: finish delivering soil, wood chips and starter plants for garden boxes; till and plant community gardens; dig a sandpoint well at Sodbusters; put up a gate and fix dry rot at Nay Ah Shing school; fertilize new plants with "compost tea"; develop comprehensive lists of materials needed.

It was looking like a busy week ahead for the growing committee. They hurried through the meeting, took a break for lunch, and got back to work, hoping that their efforts would sprout, blossom and grow into a rewarding harvest.



The growing committee planned a flurry of activities June 14 at the Public Health building in District I.

WEWIN 5k Color Run Raises Funds While Promoting Health

Shannon Porter Guest Writer



"When life gives you color, run with it!"—That was the theme of the 5k Color Run organized by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's own local WEWIN chapter. WEWIN, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations, is a national group for women all over Indian country to empower, improve and strengthen the communities they live in and other Tribes around the country. WEWIN's local chapter has been gaining strength in the Mille Lacs Band area for the last few years. More recently this year the local chapter has been conducting fundraising opportunities to attend the annual WEWIN conference at the Tulalip Resort and Casino in Tulalip, Wash., Aug. 14–17. So far the group has done silent auctions, rummage sales, taco sales and hot dog/burger sales.

Through months of planning, this 5k was the product of a group dedicated to enriching the Mille Lacs Band with what WEWIN stands for. They scoured for donations, and boy did they receive donations. The following entities should receive a "Howah" for helping WEWIN achieve this goal: Grand Market for the fruit and water, Steve Premo for his amazing talent to design the shirt, 20/20 for printing the shirts, Mille Lacs Cor-

porate Ventures and Eddy's Resort for the location of the run, Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department and Monte Fronk for the safety of the runners and spectators and lastly the countless WEWIN volunteers and spectators. Thanks to them this 5k went off without a hitch.

Even though the weather threatened to rain out the event, it started on time. Volunteers showed up early to mark the event, set up registration and get the colors ready. Runners came from around the area in support of good health and WEWIN.

"For me the 5K Color Run was to promote a healthier way of life," Carmen Weous, a WEWIN volunteer, stated. "Today was a day of fun for me just to walk and enjoy some time with family and friends."

The path was marked and protected by Mille Lacs Tribal Police and Monte Fronk. As runners received their shirts and numbers, you could hear the camaraderie and laughs between conversations of appreciation for what WEWIN is trying to accomplish and what problems are affecting Native people today. Among the adults there were also numerous children all energized and ready to run.





As the 27 registered runners lined up at the starting line, the rain lifted and off they went, receiving their different colors to wear as badges of honor. From pink to orange to blue, the runners and some staff were tagged with colors. They laughed and continued on their way towards the finish line. The volunteers even took a truck along the path to get more color on the runners. Through each stop it was clear to see just how much fun everyone was having.

The run was a success, and everyone completed it with no problems. As the WEWIN organizers began to realize this was a success, it became apparent that another 5k could easily be arranged. So the WEWIN group arranged another 5k for the Grand Celebration in Hinckley on Sunday, June 19. Wanetta Thompson stated, "WEWIN gives us an opportunity to work with our fellow native sisters to help build stronger community relationships. We put together the 5K Color Run/Walk event that would bring youth and adults together to have fun while participating in an event that promotes a healthy lifestyle!" The community and the group hope to continue this tradition and make the 5k Color Run an annual event.

Karla Smallwood Teaches Dance

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Karla Smallwood has long wanted to help people learn more about dancing in powwows, what it means and why it matters.

She has been dancing in traditional powwows, non-traditional powwows and competitively since she was a little girl. She's a champion dancer who has traveled internationally with drum and dance groups.

Five years ago, during a sobriety meeting someone asked her what she wanted to do in her life and she replied, "I would love to teach dancing."

Fast forward to 2016 and Karla's desire has come true. She is working with the Band's Department of Labor to teach classes from 6 to 8 p.m. on two Monday nights each month at Grand Casino Hinckley.

The free classes for youth and adults began in April and will continue indefinitely. The goal is to offer classes in other districts and to add a male dancer to help teach, said Tawhnee Archambault-Premo, a training coordinator for the Department of Labor.

"We're looking to get as many cultural activities as we can to our clients," said Tawhnee. "We try to help people as much as we can, and the economic angle isn't all of it. They need tradition and cultural awareness."

"We want to put more focus on culture so people can remember their culture," Tawhnee added.

Karla said she didn't dance when she wasn't sober and said she was lost.

"Dancing made me whole again. When I was sober it was who I was and who I was brought up to be," Karla said.

She said she has relatives who still suffer from addiction and that there is an important connection between sobriety and dancing. Through the classes Karla is helping people learn the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical benefits of dancing. They will also be learning the dances and practicing them.

Karla is also teaching the participants how to care for their regalia, how they should act when they are wearing it, what a powwow is, the order of powwows, what happens after grand entry, the veteran's song, what it is and what to do during the flag song.

"Sometimes there are kids or others who are out there dancing the most during the flag song, and they're not supposed to do that," she said. "They are supposed to stand along the sides and bounce."

"I want people to know the dances and what's behind them," she said. "I want them to know the difference between being in the circle and being a spectator."

One of her recent classes focused on royalty and how someone should carry themselves, including looking people in the eyes and offering firm, strong handshakes. She's planning to teach how to braid hair, too.

Karla can teach males how to dance, too, because she learned the dances as she was growing up and traveling for competitions in other countries like Poland, Finland, Sweden, Russia and elsewhere. She has taught males to dance when she worked at a group home in Red Lake — some of them still dance and she sees them at powwows.

"I think if people attended the classes and learned the dances and the meaning of them there wouldn't be so much chaos in their lives."

One day she would like to record what she's teaching and put her lessons on social media and online sites like YouTube so more people can have access to them.

Tawhnee said she would like to add drumming and singing to the classes.

"The classes are growing and we're happy about that. We want them to grow, and we want to do more."

But besides growing in size, both women say the purpose of what's being taught is most important.

"People sometimes throw on regalia and dance. They might choose a dance because they purchased regalia for it, but it might not be the dance they like or want to do. I want people to try different dances and then decide what they like," said Karla. "And I want them to understand the dance and what it means."

















Berry Pickin'

Katie Draper Guest Writer

One of my fondest memories of my grandmother, Cecelia Dunkley, is from when I was about 12 years old. It seemed like a whole herd of us Dunkleys piled in the car that headed off to go berry pickin'. Of course, my gram knew right where to go. For all I know we were in Willow River or Wisconsin, but it didn't matter because we were together on a beautiful summer day. I recall lots of pine trees and an ol' bull snake that she pointed out on the edge of the two-rut road as we neared our destination. We had all kinds of buckets with us; smaller ones for collecting, and larger ones to pour the blueberries into. We parked the car, and off we all went to assume berry pickin' position.

Not long after we started berry pickin', our fingertips and mouths were stained blue. My gram asked me if I was eating berries, and I told her "no" while looking at her with an innocent face. I could tell by the look on her face she knew I wasn't telling the truth. The berries were so good I couldn't help it! I had to eat a few of them! I was able to refrain from eating any more because she explained that we had baking and canning to do with our goods from the woods.

Her soft voice filled the air around us, telling stories about when she was younger, and when my mom and siblings were younger. Once in a while she'd throw her head back and bust out laughing when telling a funny story. To this day, every one of us in my family do that when humored. We can certainly thank her for her humor and love of telling stories.

After a while it was time for lunch. She called us over, and I swear she pulled a big ol' blanket from under her skirt and laid it out on the ground. We all sat down on the blanket, giggling and hungry. Gram was notorious for her big yellow bowl; she mostly had fry bread dough in it, but on some occasions, like berry pickin', she had lunch. She unwrapped the dishcloth that covered the bowl, and inside was mashed potatoes pushed to the sides along the bottom part of the bowl. On top of the mashed potatoes was meat. Now I'd like to think the meat was venison or pork, but it was possibly raccoon, deer feet, beaver tail or a neck bone from something. She loved neck bones. Lastly, on top of the meat was her delicious fry bread. We didn't haul a bunch of plates and forks with us when we were berry pickin'. We sat around sharing food, stories, and time together. Our precious time together.

Berry pickin' will always be one of my fondest memories of my gram.

Katie Draper works in Government Affairs for the Band, and encourages other Band members to share memories and stories for future articles in the Inaajimowin.

Do you have a story to share, or do you have an idea for a story? Call Brett at 320-237-6851 or send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com.





Odisiins A Child's Bellybutton

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

l'iwapii oshki-ondaadizid a'aw abinoojiiyens, odayaan imaa omigiid imaa odisiinsing. Azhigwa dash bakwajisemagadinig imaa omigiid imaa odisiinsing, mii i'iw omigiiwin genawenjigaadenig. Mii imaa mashkimodensing achigaadenig miinawaa asemaa. Mii dash a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-izhi-wiindang odisiins a'aw abinoojiiyens. Mii-go gaa-izhi-aabiji-ganawendang o'ow odisiins a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke dash owapii giini-ishkwaa-ayaad a'aw Anishinaabe, mii-go gii-ni-maajiidood o'ow odisiins.

At the time of birth a baby has a small scab on his bellybutton. Once that scab falls off of his bellybutton, the scab is kept. It is put into a little bag with tobacco. That is what Anishinaabe

called odisiins. Anishinaabe has always held on to that bellybutton. At the time of death, Anishinaabe took his bellybutton with him.

Ishke dash ezhiwebizid iko a'aw Anishinaabe nandawaabandang gegoo anooj nandobijiged, mii-ko dash wawiyazh ani-gagwejimind awiya, "Awegonen da nendawaabandaman? Mii na iw gidisiins nendawaabandaman?"

When Anishinaabe has lost something and is forever looking around for it, he is jokingly asked, "What are you looking for? Are you looking for your bellybutton?

Bashkwegino-Makizinensan A'aw AbinoojiiyensA Child's First Moccasins

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Ishke wayeshkad ozhitamawaad bashkwegino-makizinensan iniw abinoojiiyensan a'aw Anishinaabe, mii iw ezhichigaadang iniw bashkwegino-makizinensan. Mii imaa bapagone'ang imaa onagaakisidaang iniw bashkwegino-makizinensan. Mii dash iw wenji-izhichigaadang a'aw Anishinaabe, owaabandaanaawaa ingiw abinoojiiyensag gakina gegoo wawaaj-igo Manidoon. Bagakaamagadini odinendamowiniwaan, mii iw wenji-waabandamowaad gakina gegoo wawaaj-igo iniw Manidoon bimi-ayaanid. Nawaj gechi-aya'aawijig nebowa odayaanaawaa imaa odinendamowiniwaan wenishkwe'igowaad. Gaawiin wiinawaa gakina gegoo owaabandanziinaawaa dibishkoo ingiw abinoojiiyensan wayaabandaminid.

When Anishinaabe makes the baby's first pair of moccasins, this is what is done with those moccasins. Anishinaabe makes small holes on the soles of the moccasins. The reason why Anishinaabe makes the moccasins this way is, because babies are able to see everything including the spirits. Their minds are clear, that is why they are able to see everything even the spirits as they go by. Those who are older have a lot on their minds that distract them. Therefore they are not able to see everything that a baby is able to see.

Ishke dash awiya apii ishkwaa-ayaad, mii imaa ganawenjigaazod niiwo-dibik dabwaa-na'inigaazod. Mii dash owapii babaamaadizinid iniw ojichaagwan baa-mawidisaadaminid aaniindi-go gii-pabaa-ayaanid megwaa maa gii-pibizhaagiinid omaa akiing. Ishke dash bimi-ayaanid ojichaagwan awiya maagizhaa gaye iniw Manidoon besho imaa ayaad a'aw abinoojiiyens, mii dash ge-izhi-wiindamawaad inow bemi-ayaanijin, "Gaawiin gidaa-ni-wiijiwisinoon, onzaam bapagoshkaamagadoon nimbashkwegino-makizinensan." Mii iw epenimod a'aw Anishinaabe weweni daizhi-ayaanid oniijaanisensan.

When someone passes on they are kept over for four nights before burial. It is at that time that the spirit of the individual travels and revisits every place they had been while they lived on this earth. When the spirit of the individual is traveling by, or maybe a Manidoo gets close to where that baby is, the baby speaks out and says, "I cannot travel with you, because my moccasins have holes in them." This is what Anishinaabe relies on to ensure their baby's safety.

Asabikeshiinh-Wanii'iganDream Catchers

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Mii dash omaa waa-ni-dazhindamaan i'iw asabikeshiinh-wanii'igan iko gaa-agoojigaadenig omaa odikinaaganing ingiw giniijaanisinaanig. Mii o'ow asabikeshiinh-wanii'igan wenji-wiindamaan i'iw, mii iw ezhinaagwak. Mii ingiw mindimooyenyibaneg gaa-ikidowaad, gaawiin gii-ayaamagasinoon gaa-izhi-anishinaabewinikaadeg i'iw niin igo nimichi-giizhitoon. Mii dash gaa-inaabadadinig a'aw abinoojiiyens eta-go enaajiwaninig akeyaa da-izhingwashid. Mii dash i'iw iko awiya zegingwashid, mii imaa ani-baataasininig imaa egoojigaadenig odikinaaganing. Mii dash gaawiin da-zegingwashisiin a'aw abinoojiiyens. Mii dash i'iw enaabadak.

What I want to talk about are the dream catchers that were hung on the cradleboards of our babies. The reason I call them spider webs is because that is what they look like. Those old ladies had said there was not an Anishinaabe name for those dream catchers. It was I who created the Anishinaabe name for them which means spider web. It was used to help the baby to have only good dreams. When any bad dreams or nightmares came the baby's way got caught in those dream catchers so they only had pleasant dreams when it was hung on their cradleboards. So as a result the child or baby did not have bad dreams. That was the reason these dreams catchers were used.

Mii iw wayeshkad gaa-onji-miinigoowiziyang iniw asabikeshiinh-wanii'iganan ezhinaagwakin da-naadamaagod a'aw abinoojiinyens eta-go enaajiwaninig akeyaa da-inaabandang. Ishke dash i'iw noongom niwaabandaanan anooj inaabadak iniw. Wawaaj igo biinji-odaabaaning agoojigaadewanoon. Maagizhaa gaye wiizazegaatood imaa endaad a'aw bemaadizid, mii imaa aasamisagong wawaaj egoojigaadenig iniw.

We were originally given the dream catchers to help filter the baby's dreams so that the baby will only have good dreams. Nowadays I see dream catchers used in different ways. They are even hung inside of cars. People are also using them as decoration placed on the walls of their homes.

Gaawiin gidaa-wii-baapinendanziimiin gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang. Gaawiin i'iw anooj daa-inaabadasinoon iniw Manidoo-aabajichiganan gaa-miinigoowiziyangin anishinaabewiyang. Ishke mii imaa wanitood a'aw bemaadizid i'iw wayeshkad gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-inaabadak iniw asabikeshiinh-wanii'iganan. Mii i'iw wayaabishkiiwed ezhi-wiindang, "Dream-catcher."

We should have respect for those things that were given to us as Anishinaabe. We should not use our spiritual items that were given to us as Anishinaabe in ways they were not intended to be used. This is where Anishinaabe has lost the original teaching of how to use a dream catcher. This is what the white man calls a dream catcher.

Joyce and LeAnn: Mothers, Daughters, Masters

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Anyone who knows Joyce "Biidwewekwe" Shingobe knows that she is passionate about education. For years she's encouraged Band members to focus on graduating from high school, college and beyond.

"It's never changed. I've promoted education for myself, my family and the greater community," said Joyce, the Band's Executive Director for Education.

This spring, Joyce had the honor of graduating from the University of Minnesota-Duluth campus with her Master's Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance (MTAG).

Though pleased to finish the program, graduating wasn't the best part. It was that she completed the program with her daughter, LeAnn "Biidaana" Benjamin by her side.

The mother and daughter duo decided that they would enroll in the program together, but not before it took some coaxing by Joyce to convince LeAnn to take on the challenge.

"My mom twisted my arm to go with her so I rushed to get my paperwork in so we could do it together," said LeAnn with a chuckle.

LeAnn, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work in 2010 from the College of St. Scholastica, said she had thought about getting a master's degree someday, but wasn't sure when it would happen.

She had enrolled in a master's program for one semester, but then decided to put it on hold indefinitely, said LeAnn, the mother of two daughters and the peacemaker at Nay Ah Shing School.

But once her mom began urging her to join her in the program, LeAnn became determined to complete her graduate degree.

The two drove to Duluth together for classes, they studied together, supported one another and kept one another encouraged throughout the cohort, Joyce said.

It was her mom's support and encouragement that helped her maintain her success through undergraduate and graduate school, LeAnn said.

"She made sure I had time to do my homework. She stayed at my house to help out when I needed," said LeAnn. "Now she's talking about a Ph.D program, but who knows what I will do."

For Joyce, who has been in the education field for decades — as a site manager for the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, a history teacher at Nay Ah Shing and the Band's education commissioner — the program allowed her an opportunity to learn more about laws, finance and tribal government.

It also gave her the opportunity to finish what she had started. Joyce had enrolled in a master's program at St. Mary's University and completed the coursework, but she didn't finish her summary paper. She was considering re-enrolling to finish, but then the MTAG program came along, so she decided to do that instead

"The biggest issue for me was that it was mostly online classes," said Joyce. "I prefer face-to-face classes, but after a while it became easier. Though it requires a lot of discipline."

"Getting my master's was a personal goal, and I wanted LeAnn to go, too, so I kind of pushed my daughter to do it," said Joyce, adding that there would be times the two would stay up until midnight completing their homework.

Joyce said her children and grandchildren have attended or completed college, and it's a dream she has for other Band members.

"We need Band members to continue their education so they can lead," she said. "It will benefit them, the Band and our government."

In the end, Joyce was happy to achieve her goal and was "glad to see my daughter go through it and succeed."

LeAnn, who isn't sure what's next for her, but would love to see an Ojibwe immersion school open up one day, said she learned a lot from her classmates from other tribes and that the classes were actually fun. She also enjoyed being with other Native people and not just the only Indian person in the class — like she was during her undergraduate days.

Her advice to others who are considering enrolling in the MTAG program or another higher education institution is to "go for it"

"The more you learn about federal policies or tribal government it makes the community stronger," said LeAnn. "With every graduate we get stronger and stronger, and we can become stronger as an Anishinaabe nation."



LeAnn and Joyce graduated together with their Master's in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota — Duluth.

The Higher Education Department is seeking applicants for those interested in becoming teachers at the tribal schools.

Joyce Shingobe, Executive Director for Education, is recruiting Band members for "grow your own" teacher training program that is being offered in collaboration with the Fond du Lac College.

Information sessions will be held in July at these locations:

- 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20 in DIII at Grand Casino Hinckley
- 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27 in DII at the Isle Community Center
- 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 28 at the East Lake Community Center.

For more information contact the Higher Education Office.

Community Education Meeting



All community members are invited to share their vision for Nay Ah Shing schools on July 7 at 5 p.m. at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag. The Department of Education is seeking input from all community members, not just those with children in the schools, because the schools belong to all of us. Dinner will be served. Please RSVP to 320-532-7690.





You are Cordially Invited to join us for the Swearing-In Ceremony of Melanie Benjamin Chief Executive and Sandra Blake District 1 Representative

..... July 12th, 2016 10 a.m.

> Mille Lacs Band Powwow Grounds

Swearing-In Ceremony, Feast, and Powwow.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy July Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Robert Duane Anderson David Niib Aubid Cynthia Pauline Backora Darline Ann Barbour Jeffrey Allen Beaulieu MaryAnn Sophia Belgarde Faith Caylen Bellecourt Anita Lynn Benjamin James Oliver Benjamin Roberta Joy Benjamin Donna Marie Boodoo Lewelyn Gene Boyd Roxann Lynn Carr Archie Dahl Cash Kevin Scott Churchill Randall Clark Christine Marie Costello Gary Lee Davis Martha Kathrine Davis Michael Wayne Davis **Brian DeSantis** George James Dorr Jr. Victoria Lynn Dunagan Rosella Marie Eagle Donna Lou Gilmore Karen Harrington Lawrence Gene Johnson Loretta Ruth Kalk Debra Ann Kamimura Dixie Marie Kamimura Judith Joan Kanassatega

Vivian Roxanne Kegg Richard Joseph Keller Terry Bruce Kemper Deborah Jean Kersting Darlene Ann LaFave Bonita Marie Lucas Virginia Mann Brian David Matrious Lucille Ann Merrill Meskwanakwad Doreen Kay Mitchell Jo Ann Mitchell Letitia Mitchell Carol Jean Nickaboine Alan Michael O'Brien Debra Ann Olson Karen Peterson Joseph Vincent Pewaush Steven Edward Premo Daryl Alan Quaderer Louis T. Quaderer Elfreda M. Sam Orretta Faye Sharlow Valerie Jayne Shingobe Alicia Lydia Skinaway Geraldine Ellen Skinaway Loretta June Smith Andrew Felix St. Clair Ruth Anne St. John Glenn Staples Kevin William Sutton Patricia Louise Thomas Jolette Marie Zapf

Happy July Birthdays:

Happy birthday to **Doreen** Mitchell on 7/1! Love, Bob, Barb and the kids. • Happy birthday **Nicole** on 7/2, love the Harrington Family! • Happy birthday **Brody Smith** on 7/2! From Great Grandma June. • Happy 9th birthday Dallas Downey on 7/5! We love you to the moon and back. Mommy, Daddy and the rest of the family. • Happy birthday **Aundreyah Sam** on 7/9! From Great Grandma June. • Happy birthday **Max Dean** on 7/12, love the Harrington Family! • Happy birthday **Karen** on 7/13, love the Harrington Family! Happy birthday to Great **Grandma June** on 7/15! From Dylan, Malerie, Leroy and Lily Ann. • Happy birthday **Rachel** on 7/21, love your brothers and sissys! • Happy Birthday **Granny Tina** on 7/23, with love from Shyla, Caden, Destanie, Carter, Bella, Jordan, Rainey,

Dilly Bar, Dallas, Papa and

Mom. • Happy 1st birthday

to Caden Shingobe on 7/24,

with lots of love from Mommy,

Daddy, Auntie Destanie, Carter,

Bella, Uncle Jordan, Auntie

Rainey, Uncle Dilly Bar, Uncle Dallas, Great great Grandpa Merlin, Granny Tina and Great Gramma Gina. • Happy birthday to Caden Shingobe on 7/24! From Great Grandma June. • Happy birthday to **Carter** on 7/25! From Great Grandma June. • Happy 1st birthday to Carter Anderson on 7/25, with lots of love from Mommy, Daddy, Auntie Shyla, Caden, Bella, Uncle Jordan, Auntie Rainey, Uncle Dilly Bar, Uncle Dallas, Great great grandpa Merlin, Granny Tina and Great gramma Gina. • Happy birthday to my son, **Jeff Aubele** on 7/27! Love you, from Mom. • Happy birthday to my niece, Shena Matrious on 7/30! Love from your Auntie Alvina. Happy birthday to my wonderful loving sons, Landon Livingston on 7/13 and Robert "BJ" Livingston Jr. on 7/31. ● Happy 21st Birthday, Jessica

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to **Debbie Mitchell** on 6/2!

Love, Bob, Barb and the kids.

• Happy belated birthday to **Stina Pike** on 6/6! Love, Mom,

Kevin, Gabby, Caleb, Blake and

Grandma Barb.

Other Announcements:

Congratulations to our amazing daughter, **Sara Packard** for earning her Master's Degree in Human Resources. Her dedication has been inspiring and we couldn't be more proud of her. What an awesome achievement, way to go Sara! From your loving parents and family!

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is 20 WORDS OR LESS to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-8018.

The deadline for the August issue is July 15.

Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration320-292-0258Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration320-630-7415Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development320-630-2496Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services320-630-2607Ed Minnema, Deputy Administrator of Education320-630-0674Susan Klapel, DNR Executive Director320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lauren! You have grown up

lady. Love you lots from all

of us!!

to be such an awesome young

Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 22 – 24

New Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) in District II.

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

August 19 – 21

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Open Gym

Mondays – Thursdays, 5:30 – 9 p.m. District I Community Center

Band Member Presents, Publishes

Congratulations to Band Elder Carol Hernandez, who presented at the National Tribal Public Health Summit April 12 in Atlanta. Her presentation was titled "Think Tribally, Act Locally: Strategies to Support Tribal Policy Work on Health Issues." Carol also co-authored a paper titled "Why the World Will Never Be Tobacco-Free: Reframing 'Tobacco Control' Into a Traditional Tobacco Movement." The paper was published in the American Journal of Public Health. Sheri Scott of ClearWay Minnesota said, "The article simply would not have happened without her. She has also done a tremendous service over the past year in helping us disseminate the key lessons learned about traditional tobacco and the importance of tribal sovereignty."

AABITA-NIIBINO-GIIZIS MIDSUMMER MOON JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events Also see below for recurring events.					1 Niibin: It's summer!	2 Kids Crafts 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiing? What's the weather like outside?	It's hot: Gizhaate. It's not hot: Gaawiin gizhaatesinoon.	5 Band Assembly Meeting Minisinaakwang ALU Sunshine: Zaagaate.	6 DI Community Picnic 5:30 p.m. Powwow Grounds (See below)	Nay Ah Shing Community Meeting (see page 16) 5 p.m. RSVP: 320-532-4690 Circle of Health Outreach 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office Band Assembly Meeting Eddy's Resort	8 Veterans Coffee 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. American Indian Center	9 It's windy: Noodin It's not windy: Gaawiin noodinzinoon.
Gimiwan: It's raining. Gaawiin gimiwanzinoon: It's not raining.	I'm going swimming: Niwii-pagiz. You're going swimming: Giwii- pagiz I don't want to go swimming: Gaawiin niwiii-pagizosiin.	Swearing-in Ceremony 10 a.m. DI Powwow Grounds Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers	Legislative Committee 2 p.m. Isle Community Center	Circle of Health Outreach 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. DII Community Center/Clinic Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers	Legislative Committee 2 p.m. East Lake Community Center	Peacemaking and Cultural Teachings with Laurie Vilas and Terry Kemper 10 a.m. All Nations Indian Church Giishkizhige: S/he is cutting grass. Ingiishkizhige: I'm cutting grass.
Anwebi: S/he is relaxing. Indanweb: I'm relaxing. Gidanweb, ina? Are you relaxing?	Niwii-pimose: I'm going for a walk. Giwii-pimose ina? Do you want to go for a walk? Bimosedaa! Let's walk.	Circle of Health Outreach 11 a.m. — 2 p.m. DIII Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Big Sandy Lodge McGregor, MN	20 DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center	Elder Services Meeting Mille Lacs ALU DI Band Assembly Meeting Big Sandy Lodge McGregor, MN	22 Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow	23 Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow
Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow Niwii- wewebanaabii: I'm going fishing: Ningii- wewebanaabii dibikong: I went fishing last night:	Akakanzhebwe: S/he is grilling Niwii-akakanzhebwe dibikak: I'm grilling tonight. Niwii-akakanzhebwe dibikong: I grilled last night.	Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog Community Center	DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center DII Community Meeting 5 p.m. Isle Community Center	Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church DII Community Meeting 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley	Mii giizhizekweyaan: I'm done cooking. Wiisinidaa! Let's eat.	30 Jewelry Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum

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Miigwech to John Benjamin (Waabishkigaabaw) for providing Ojibwe words and phrases for the calendar!

Band assembly meeting dates and times are subject to change.

District I Community Picnic

A community picnic will be held at the District I Powwow Grounds on July 6 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. The picnic will include a DJ and Karaoke contest (practice and pick your song in advance), drawings, fireworks and inflatable rides and games. The menu will include burgers and brats, mac salad, baked beans, chips, fry bread and cake, with pop, Kool-Aid, tea and nibi to drink.

Nay Ah Shing, Aazhoomog Serve Free Meals

Nay Ah Shing Schools are participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all children, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, at no charge and meet nutritional standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Meals will be provided at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag School, 43521 Oodena Dr., Onamia, June 13 through Aug. 18, Monday through Friday. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:15 to 1 p.m. The site will be closed on July 4.

Free meals will also be served at Aazhoomog Community Center to youth up to age 18 from July 5 to Aug. 19. Breakfast will be served from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. Transportation is not provided. Sponsored by District III Representative and Education Division. For more information, call 320-384-6240.

Fellowship for Band Member

Congratulations to Band member Adrienne Benjamin, who has been chosen to participate in the National Arts Strategies Creative Community Fellows 2016—17 Cohort. The Creative Community Fellows program is designed for individuals igniting change through arts and culture in their community. Adrienne has this to say: "I never thought I would be chosen for something like this. I am truly grateful, excited and still in shock. I can't wait to start this experience and work towards making dreams of arts and theater more accessible to community youth! Miigwech to the amazing people in my life who constantly push me and believe in me. I truly would not be where I am physically, spiritually, and mentally in my life without your beautiful love and unwavering support."

Aazhoomog Clinic Hours

Providers are at the Aazhoomog Clinic in District III from Monday through Thursday. The dentist is in the office on the last Friday of every month, and the foot doctor is available the first Wednesday of every month. Call 320-384-0149 to make an appointment or ask a question.





Honoring Elders

The Elder Services Program hosted the third annual Honor Our Elders Powwow June 8 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Royalty came from all three districts to dance in honor of Elders, and the Niigaan program from Chiminising also came to watch and dance. Steve Sam was Master of Ceremonies, Duck White was the Arena Director, and the drums were Timber Trails and Little Otter. Russell Shabaiash and Rayna Churchill retained their titles as Elder Warrior and Elder Princess. They addressed the young people in attendance about the importance of culture and education.



The Lake Lena Women's softball team placed 2nd in the Pine City Mid Summer Classic softball tournament June 10 and 11. This is their sixth season playing in the East Central Softball League. The team plays doubleheaders every Tuesday until July 26. Back row: Kate Davis, Pennie Robertson, Brandi Davis, Angela Matrious, Jasmine Staples and Vanessa Gibbs. Front row: Summer Robertson, Shannon Garbow, Marlana Staples and Mary Davis. Not pictured: Reanna Robinson.



The annual End-of-the-School-Year Picnic was held on June 11 in Minneapolis, hosted by the urban office. Miigwech to those who helped out!

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Community Meeting A community meeting has been

A community meeting has been scheduled for July 7 at 5 p.m. to discuss the community's vision for Nay Ah Shing middle and upper schools. Dinner will be served. This is not just for families with children in the schools, but for all Band members, since the schools belong to the community. Come and share your thoughts and hear others' ideas! RSVP to 320-532-4690.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.



INAJIMOIBME

AUGUST 2016 | VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 08



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



M E L A N I E B E N J A M I N

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! It was wonderful to see so many Band Members at the District II Powwow this weekend, at the beautiful new grounds! Congratulations and Miigwech to the Powwow Committee for the wonderful job they did; it was a beautiful, enjoyable weekend for all who attended. With the opening of Big Sandy Lodge and Resort as a Band property, exciting things are happening in District II.

This morning, I attended the swearing-In ceremony of Ed Minnema as Commissioner of Education. Ed spoke eloquently about the elders who taught him, such as Jim Clark and Larry Matrious. He shared some of his vision for Education, especially for Nay-Ah-Shing School. He is committed to making sure this school provides the very best education possible for our children and youth. Congratulations to Commissioner Minnema!

On July 12, I was honored to join Representative Blake in our swearing-In ceremony as Chief Executive and District 1 Representative. Congratulations as well to the School Board Members who were sworn-into office.

There are several principles that I've committed to working toward for Band Members over the next four years. Getting our Economic Justice initiative implemented will be my top priority. The Commissioners have been instructed to look at how Band government can right-size itself and decentralize services to the outlying districts, but that will not be enough to realize a savings that can be redistributed to our working Band Members. The only way this initiative will work is if we are successful in transitioning Band Members who are dependent on our programs into the workforce so they can take care of their families, rather than depending on Band programs. Sometimes that can involve tough choices, and require tough love from family members as well. We will continue implementing this agenda and I will report about this at the next State of the Band Address.

Another top priority is to continue working to stop the opiate crisis in our community and improve public safety. We have held multiple community meetings, hosted community conferences and will hold another conference in District I on August 3. This is another matter that requires partnership with families and tough love, but when family members get clean and are living healthy, sober lives, they will be grateful to their family for helping to save their lives.

Much of this month has been devoted to ensuring that we were adequately prepared for the termination of the law enforcement agreement with Mille Lacs County, and we were. There was significant work involved in preparation for this event, and our attorneys and police did a great job of making certain that Band Members would continue to receive service from Tribal Police. The most important thing to know is that our Tribal Police Officers still have the power and authority of Peace Officers to enforce laws under federal, Band and state law. The POST Board, which licenses Peace Officers in the State of Minnesota, has not revoked the licenses of our officers as the County requested.

In order to ensure we never have this problem again in the future, the Band Assembly and I agree that we must develop the communications infrastructure to ensure that we can serve as a stand-alone law enforcement agency without need of sharing communications systems with the county. We are also working toward entering into Joint Powers Agreements with other jurisdictions.

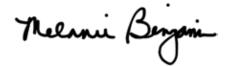
In contrast, by the time this edition makes it into your mail-boxes, the Band will have held an historic signing ceremony at Aazhoomog between the Band government and the Pine County Board. Pine County has been an outstanding partner with the Band for many years, and our relationship has become a model of how a government-to-government relationship between an Indian tribe and a local government agency can be mutually



Commissioner of Education Ed Minnema was sworn in on August 25. See next month's *Inaajimowin* for an update on education.

beneficial for all citizens, Indian and non-Indian. During this ceremony we will sign a document that includes several principles we have agreed to uphold with one another, highlighting our intention to develop future agreements.

Finally, as the summer has progressed, I've noticed more and more activity and involvement of Band Members at every level of Band government and grassroots community events. Our second Circle of Healing and Strength Conference is coming up on August 3rd in District I, and Band Member involvement has been wonderful. As Band Members, you make all the difference in our success. I just want to say Miigwech to everyone for your commitment to improving our community!







Tern for the Better

The Mille Lacs Band DNR partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this summer to provide new nesting platforms for common terns. Contrary to their name, common terns are a threatened species in Minnesota with a small number of breeding areas. The Band has worked with the USFWS in past years to enhance the terns' breeding grounds on Hennepin Island. The reproduction rate on the island has been extremely poor, so the new platforms, repurposed pontoon boats, are designed to provide additional breeding areas at Mille Lacs to increase the population. One of the platforms can be seen in Vineland Bay just out from the District I Assisted Living Units. Hennepin and Spirit Islands make up the Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, which is the smallest in the nation.

School Board, District Rep, Chief Executive Sworn In

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

A late night storm moved the swearing-in ceremony and powwow for newly re-elected officials indoors on July 12. School Board Chair Kim Kegg and District I School Board Representative Semira Kimpson, who were re-elected to the Nay Ah Shing School Board, were the first to take the oath of office from Chief Justice Rayna Churchill. A group of family, friends and loved ones gathered at the Mille Lacs Courtroom to witness the event.

"I want to help make a difference in the school I graduated from," said Semira. Their commitment to the education of Mille Lacs Band Youth has been reinforced and acknowledged by their peers and community members. Meetings that sometimes lead late into the evening are common for these two and the three other board members.

Later on, at the District I Community Center, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Sandra Blake were sworn into office after winning re-election earlier this year.

Obizaan spoke for our government and community, and he also gave a special recognition to the Mille Lacs Band Police during his invocation. "May they be watched over and effective in their duties," he proclaimed.

Secretary Treasurer Carol Beaulieu opened the session with a call to order for Chief Justice Rayna Churchill to conduct the swearing-in of Melanie and Sandra one by one.

Afterward, Melanie spoke first about her desire to have

more active Band members. "You may have a desire, deep down, to serve the Band," she said. "You have ideas about improving our community. My advice to you: Just do it!"

Melanie also talked about the revocation of the Law Enforcement Agreement (see page 4), reassuring that Tribal Police will still be active on the Reservation and that our neighbors of Northern Mille Lacs County will be more negatively affected due to the Mille Lacs County Board decision.

Referring to the U.S. government's M-Opinion reaffirming the continued existence of the Mille Lacs Reservation, Melanie said, "Since 1855, the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation has been in place... We have been here for 150 years and will be here 150 years from this day!" She ended with, "As I've said many times as Chief Executive: in 200 years, the politicians, the issues of the day and the problems will all be gone — but the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will still be here. We are here to stay, our Reservation is intact and we always will be here. If we do things right, our people will be speaking our language, practicing our traditions and putting on powwows like we are today."

Sandra, quiet in demeanor but experienced in effective leadership, passed on her gratitude to Melanie and to the community for believing in her to serve four more years as District I Representative.

These are the people we elected to lead us for the next four years. We have very dedicated member leaders who have

withstood the test of time and continue to have positive impact on our community. I urge all Band members to lend a helping hand to our government leaders.

They may have the title of a government official but we as a people hold a title which they serve: Mille Lacs Band Member. Let's do our individual part in aiding our Elected Officials in bettering our community. Miigwech.



School Board Members Semira Kimpson, left, and Kim Kegg, right, were sworn in by Chief Justice Rayna Churchill. Photo by Bradley Harrington.













National News Briefs

ICWA Challenge: The California Second District Court of Appeals ruled unanimously earlier this month that a 6-year-old Choctaw girl known as "Lexi" will be staying in Utah with her family. In the scathing 38-page decision, the three-judge panel ruled against foster parents Summer and Russell Page, citing their "self interest," their pattern of interference with and resistance to Lexi's visits with her extended family and their inability to facilitate an ongoing relationship with her siblings as reasons for the decision, which marks an important and high-profile victory in an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) challenge case.

Promising Platform: Democrats are poised to support Indian Country on sovereignty, health, justice and other issues as they hammer out their party's 2016 national platform. The draft, which is up for final approval at the national convention in late July, includes a section on tribal sovereignty which reads in part: "We have a profound moral and legal responsibility to the Indian tribes — throughout our history we have failed to live up to that trust. That is why the Democratic Party will uphold, honor, and strengthen to the highest extent possible the United States' fundamental trust and responsibility, grounded in the Constitution and treaties, to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes."

Keep the Pressure: The Obama administration has made progress on issues important to Native Americans, and the Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell encourages tribes to keep the pressure on Washington D.C. after a new president is sworn in. To date, the Obama administration has established the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which deals with key issues specific to tribes, as well as having settled dozens of lawsuits with tribes on issues like treaty obligations and water rights. This was an important speech made by a federal official spotlighting the major efforts being done to strengthen Native representation at the federal level, as well as to encourage long-term commitment to upholding Native American rights.

Tribal Justice Bill Approved: Last month, the Senate's Committee on Indian Affairs passed a bill that could strengthen the ability of tribal courts to hold offenders accountable. The Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act gives tribes certainty and provides tribal law enforcement with the tools needed to police and prosecute every criminal in their community by reshaping the way crimes are prosecuted across Indian Country. It will give tribes the ability to arrest and prosecute non-citizens living on reservations for crimes involving drugs, to protect children and domestic abuse issues.

STOP Act: A bill to stop the export of tribal property and punish those who deal in stolen items was introduced in the Senate. The STOP Act, Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act, is a means to address the increasingly frequent sales of Native American artifacts overseas. This bill comes as a result of instances such as Navajo Nation sacred masks and an Acoma Pueblo shield being put up for sale in France. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) introduced the bill to respond to concerns raised by authorities in France. This is an important step in providing protection and legal measures to preserve Native property items.

Law Enforcement Agreement Revoked, Next Steps Considered

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Band members and employees showed up in force at the July 19 meeting of the Mille Lacs County Board to express their disapproval of the commissioners' June 21 decision to revoke the County's law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band.

After allowing testimony, the Board decided to hold a special meeting to consider a new agreement with the Band — but not until after the revocation went into effect July 22.

Although there was no scheduled public hearing on the agenda, a letter from Band member Megan Ballinger prompted Board Chair Roger Tellinghuisen to allow testimony.

Megan was the first to speak, scolding the Board for making the decision to revoke the agreement with no input from those most affected: the Indian and non-Indian residents of the north end of the county.

She referred to the Board agenda, which included a public hearing on a county ditch. "How could a ditch be more worthy of community input than our safety?" she asked.

"If anybody gets hurt, that's on you guys," she continued. "I urge you to get in the car, go up and meet with our elected officials. This isn't just your life you're messing with; you're messing with my public safety... These tribal police officers, they know us, they know our family members, and they know our community. We can talk to them about anything... Enough is enough. You guys really should've asked our opinion on the matter before revoking the agreement."

The Mille Lacs Messenger has accused the Board of violating the state's Open Meeting Law by adding the resolution to the agenda at the last minute and revoking it without adequate public notice. Commissioner Phil Peterson said he was insulted by the suggestion that it was done at a "secret meeting."

Others who testified were Tribal Police Investigator Russ Jude, Katie Draper, Shena Matrious, Shannon Nayquonabe, Cheryl Minx and Billie Jo Sarcia.

Katie said, "We all know that this is not about a law enforcement agreement. This is about people who have been wanting to do away with our reservation for decades." She referred to the millions of dollars lost in the County's lawsuit against the Band trying to prove that the reservation no longer existed. "Consider this. Revoke your resolution today. Respect us, and we will respect you," she concluded.

Shena pointed out the irony that Sheriff Brent Lindgren requested a donation from the Band for a drug safety program while the County was attempting to deny the Tribal Police their

authority to enforce state law. "You are endangering our children by playing politics with our public safety," she said.

Shannon said the County's news release on the resolution was misleading and that taxes would go up for all county residents as a result of the Board's decision. She added, "By revoking this agreement, you are placing all of your citizens, non-Indian or Indian, in jeopardy."

Billie Jo told the Board the Band's trust land residents have seen an increase in County law enforcement presence in recent days. "We never see deputies," she said. "It feels like a hostile takeover, and it feels intentional. The county is trying to antagonize us, right on our 4,000 acres. That is not community policing."

After the testimony, Commissioner Peterson asked if the Board could meet to reconsider its resolution terminating the agreement.

County Administrator Pat Oman told the board they could schedule an emergency meeting prior to the resolution taking effect July 22, but he recommended a special meeting, which would require three days' public notice.

Commissioner Dave Oslin, whose district includes the Mille Lacs Reservation, spoke against the idea of a special meeting. He said the agreement had fallen apart before and been put back together, and that the Band had said it would not sit down with the County unless the County rescinded the resolution.

"The County Board made a decision, and I think at this point we need to stick with that agreement and see what happens," he said. "If the majority of the board wants a special meeting, so be it... I haven't heard one thing that wasn't addressed by the county."

Chairman Tellinghuisen called for a roll call vote on whether to hold a special meeting. Tellinghuisen, Peterson, Tim Wilhelm of rural Princeton and Genny Reynolds of Princeton voted in favor. Commissioner Oslin voted against.

Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati made one final request for the Board to rescind its resolution. Oman recommended against it, and the Board did not take action.

Commissioner Peterson said, "We are taking that first step by scheduling this meeting."

Commissioner Tellinghuisen said, "It's a small step, but a step maybe in the right direction."

The Board scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, July 26, to discuss a new law enforcement agreement. For an update, see the Band's website or next month's *Inaajimowin*.

The County's resolution revoking the agreement went into effect at midnight on July 22. For updates, see millelacsband.com or next month's *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Community meeting

The Tribal Police department held a community meeting at the District I Community Center on June 20 to inform Band members about what would happen in the absence of a law enforcement agreement with the County.

See page 8 for a story on the meeting.



Megan Ballinger's letter to the Mille Lacs County Board convinced them to take public testimony on their decision to revoke the County's law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band.



Commissioner Dave
Oslin, who represents the
Reservation area on the
Mille Lacs County Board,
voted against holding
a special meeting to
reconsider the County's
decision to revoke the law
enforcement agreement.

District I Celebrates at Community Picnic

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

With the smell of burgers and brats on the grill, about 500 community members gathered at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds on July 6. Legislative staff, DOL crew members and local volunteers worked the event, which is aimed to bring the community together to have good Ojibwe fun.

"It's a good event to have," Sandy Blake expressed, "Seeing all of the community members out here, the kids playing — it gets better every year." There were 10 inflatable rides set up, including a bouncy house, rock climbing wall and a maze.

Max Blake gave some unwritten rules by saying, "It's a good time, but they don't let 300-pound-plus on the rides!"

Kenneth Mitchell II, who attended with his son Kenneth Mitchell III, said, "It's a great thing for the kids and community. And the food is good!"

After dinner came the Karaoke Contest, culminating in a head-to-head battle between Randy Sam with his rendition of

Don Williams' "I Believe in You" and Talon Billie performing Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues." In the end, Randy took the top prize with a little Sir Mix-A-lot.

Youth also sang karaoke with popular songs from Bruno Mars and Carly Rae Jepsen and led the crowd in a singalong with "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Drawings were held, and some of the winners included Coleman Weous, Deedee Weous and Roy Garbow. Tony Pike and Shirley Boyd each won the top prize: a 40-inch SmartTV.

To end the night, fireworks lit up the sky with Live Facebook Feed. a first for a MLB event.

Tony Pike had to run his TV over and toss it to Ramona in order for him to get his drone in the sky in time for the Live Feed.

At the end of the day, the kids had fun, families came together and Gayle got to get her groove on.







Circle of Healing and Strength



In response to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's roundtable meetings on the opiate problem in the community, a Circle of Healing and Strength Conference was held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 24. A second conference will be held Aug. 3 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Dr. Jeffrey Morgan talked about the nature of the brain disease of addiction, exposing myths about addiction and explaining how medical treatments work. He talked about the way genetics, stress, trauma, depression and abuse contribute to addiction.

Lois Schlutter, Ph.D., spoke on co-occurring disorders, including the "trifecta" of chemical dependency, mental illness and physical illness.

Tribal Police Officers Derrick Nauman and Russ Jude gave an update on drugs in the community;

Cecilia Fire Thunder, a motivational speaker from the Oglala Sioux Reservation, entertained and informed the large crowd

with a passionate and humorous speech. Cecilia said the keys to healing drug abuse are treating bodies as sacred, reviving native languages and traditions and dealing with the pain that leads to addiction.

Conference 2

A second Circle of Healing and Strength conference will take place Aug. 3 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The conference is intended for anyone seeking cultural knowledge, wanting to help, facing addiction or living in recovery.

Solutions to the drug problem will be discussed, along with ceremonies, Big Drum teachings and historical perspectives on family violence. CD counselors and youth will also share their insights.

Invited speakers include Obizaan, Amik, Waabishkibines, Dr. Migizi Sullivan and Brenda Child.

RSVP was requested by July 29, but walk-ins are also welcome. Breakfast and registration begin at 7:30 a.m. and the conference runs from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and lunch are provided.

For more information call 320-515-0824 or email Bradley E. Harrington at nazhike_awaasanang@yahoo.com or Christopher Gahbow at Christopher.gahbow@millelacsband.com.



Pictured with
Chief Executive
Melanie
Benjamin are
conference
planners Bradley
Harrington and
Maria Costello,
and conference
speakers Cecilia
Fire Thunder,
Lois Schlutter
and Jeffrey
Morgan.

State & Local News Briefs

Record Rains, Flash Floods: The Aazhoomog community in District III was nearly turned into an island during mid-July as torrential rainfall caused road washouts, bridge closures and flooded basements. The community center and clinic were closed after the downpour July 12 and 13 led to flooding of the St. Croix River and closure of the Hwy. 48 bridge to Danbury, Wisc. The only way in or out was Alma Razor Road, a gravel road that became soft with the rains, according to Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin. "We didn't want residents going back and forth, so we kept buildings closed to keep people safe," said Percy. The Housing Department helped with wet basements and broken pumps, and the road crews fixed washed-out driveways. Residents of the Wise Owl area in District III were also trapped on an island in the floodwaters. Temporary closures on state highways 3, 27 and 65 also made travel between districts difficult. District Il was not hit as hard, but DNR maintenance crews were called to remove fallen trees from yards, according to Executive Director Susan Klapel.

Casino Rumors: The operators of the Treasure Island Resort and Casino are moving to develop more than 100 acres near Lake Elmo, which media has speculated could be the site of a second major casino project. The tribe has no committed plans for the land and has downplayed speculations about a casino. However, local officials are still considering the casino a possibility. The Prairie Island Band's current reservation is near a nuclear plant, and they are looking for "safe lands for future generations."

Good Judgment: Gov. Mark Dayton has selected Fourth Judicial District Judge Anne McKeig, a descendant of White Earth Nation, as the next Supreme Court justice. She is the first American Indian jurist on the state's highest court, giving the state its first female majority since 1991. McKeig specializes in child protection and Indian welfare issues, and is following in the footsteps of former Judge Robert A. Blaeser, another White Earth member, to uphold the law with respect to tribal rights and native communities.

Text Alert System

The text alert system has been a great tool used to communicate with Band members and Mille Lacs Band employees. In the most recent example, we were able to send out texts to District III community members that the District III Community Center and clinic were closed due to the flooding waters nearby. We plan to continue this service, and you can still be added to the text alert. Currently there are many groups that you can chose to be added to, for instance: DI, DII, DII, DII, Urban, and Elder.

If you would like to be added, it is of no cost to you (unless you pay for each text reply). All you need to do is call 320-562-7530 and asked to be added to this list. Within a few days you will receive a text asking you if you would like to be part of the text system. All you need to do is reply CONFIRM, and at any time if you do not want to receive texts, simply reply STOP.

Joe Nayquonabe to be Honored at District I Powwow

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Back in 1966, Joe Nayquonabe Sr., was one of the first Band veterans to be honored at the first Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow. Joe and Fred "Porky" Nickaboine were the first two into the arena, and they participated in the raising of the flag.

This year history will repeat itself in some ways when the 50th annual powwow convenes in Mille Lacs the weekend of August 19–21. Joe will once again be the first person into the arena for Grand Entry on that Friday night, and he will carry an eagle staff as he enters.

It will be an honor for Joe Sr., and it's also something that he knows might never have happened if he hadn't decided to make significant changes in his life.

"I felt honored then, but I will appreciate this time much more," said Joe, who is now 71 years old.

Back then Joe was dealing with a lot of turmoil because the country, as a whole, was against the Vietnam War. There was a peace movement happening, and as the costs of war went up in both money and loss of lives, the anti-war sentiment grew stronger and decidedly against the U.S. involvement in the war.

Joe, who was barely out of his teenage years when he joined the Army, believed he was doing the right thing by serving his country. He thought that his fellow Americans would support him and others who were in the armed forces, but instead they responded with hatred towards the soldiers.

"There are a lot of Vietnam vets who have committed suicide or are in trouble and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from the war, and there's still hate," said Joe. "I was really messed up and my mind was in turmoil."

Though he didn't know it then, he came to learn that he also suffered from PTSD, and like other vets, it impacted his decisions and his choices.

Growing up

Like many children of his generation, Joe spent much of his early years with his grandparents, Peter and Maggie Nayquonabe, on the reservation in Mille Lacs. Though his parents were very responsible and he didn't have to live with his Elders, he did because his grandparents needed a purpose. Joe had eight other siblings, but he was the only one who lived with his grandparents.

He was taught the importance of practicing Anishinaabe traditions. His first language was Ojibwe, and he went to many powwows and ceremonies.

When he was a first-grader, he went back to his parents, Joe and Harriett Nayquonabe, and not long after, his father passed away. Joe attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs school on the reservation from the first through the sixth grade. He went to school in Onamia beginning in the 7th grade and graduated from there.

"It was very different going to school with whites," he said. "There were all Indians here on the Rez, but mostly whites at Onamia."

"We were treated poorly and there was a lot of racism — especially toward the girls. They knew the guys could fight back so they didn't pick on us as much."

Joe said he was an average student, but believes he could have done better. His mom was an alcoholic, and he tried to help parent his younger siblings in his father's absence.

He also dealt with feelings of inferiority going to school off the reservation.

"We didn't have clothes as good as the other kids, and we lived in poverty," he said. "Knowing you're a welfare Indian didn't help matters."

Relocation and the next steps

After graduation, Joe moved to Milwaukee for two years. While there he attended welding school and worked as a weld-

er. Then, in 1965, he joined the Army.

"When I was around 8 years old, the Band was dedicating a monument — they were honoring vets — and I thought they looked so cool in their uniforms, so I wanted to join the military."

He went to basic training and then went to Vietnam for a year. He was wounded in his back when he was hit by schrapnel and still suffers from his injuries yet today. Still, he completed his tour of duty.

When Joe returned to Mille Lacs, he worked a series of odd jobs in the area. He also drank a lot of alcohol then.

"Now I know I was suffering from PTSD, but then I just knew that alcohol helped me sleep," he said. "I couldn't sleep without it."

In 1973 he married his wife of 43 years, Rita. For the next seven years he continued to drink even as the young couple began a family.

Getting past addiction

In 1980 Joe got sober. It wasn't easy, but it was something he knew he needed to do.

"When I was 9 years old I was put on a drum," he said. "Even when I was drinking, I was attending ceremonies, but I wasn't connected. I did my duty, but I did not look at

He says his spirituality and having the courage to want to change helped him on his journey to sobriety. He also says he

relied on the wisdom of his Elders. Still, he struggled.

"After sobering up there were three or four years of unhappiness, and I couldn't understand why I was unhappy. I thought if I were sober I'd be happy."

So, he talked to his Elders. They told him they had seen him attending dances, but they saw that he didn't have a purpose. They saw him practice the rituals of offering tobacco, setting a plate or helping, but knew that he wasn't doing it for the "why" but mostly going through the motions.

He listened to the Elders and made time to talk to them regularly, and soon he began to find his purpose and his happiness.

"My life has changed. It's a lot better than it was, and I found happiness or close to it. I'm still working on it."

Joe says without his spirituality he'd still be unhappy and lost.

"What they told me I had no reason not to listen. I had respect for them, and because I asked them I had to listen to what they were telling me. It carried more weight and more meaning."

When he sobered up, Joe became a drumkeeper. Now he belongs on seven drums in Mille Lacs, White Earth and Lac Courte Oreilles.

"They ask you to replace someone on the drums and it's an honor," he said. "Some of the people I replaced — I was never as respectable as them. It was an honor."

Moving forward

After Joe started sitting on drums and practicing other traditions with purpose and not out of obligation, the nightmares that had plagued him after the war stopped.

In 1988 he went back to school and graduated from St. Cloud State University with a degree in psychology. He minored



in chemical dependency because he wanted to be intentional in his efforts and desires to help others overcome addiction.

After graduating in 1992, he went to work for the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in St. Cloud. He was also a chemical dependency counselor at the Four Winds treatment center. He then began working for the Band as a Chemical Dependency Counselor until he retired in 2013.

"If I see a young man struggling with dependency and they want help, they have to be ready when they come to me," said Joe. "Every person I worked with was court-ordered to come to treatment; they didn't come on their own."

"When I started to do this work; it was focused on alcohol, and since then I've watched it turn to meth, prescription drugs and now heroin."

To conquer these addictions that plague Indian Country, Joe believes that "we need to get back to the Indian ways and teachings."

Joe, who is the father of six children — Pete, Joe, Jessi, Johanna, Nolan and Stanley — said he is a man who has changed for the better over the decades. His ideals and some of his opinions have changed for the better over the years.

Some of those changed views have helped him become a better man, husband, father, grandfather and teacher. He has also become a much-respected Elder.

He wants people to remember him as a caring person who went to school to try to help others.

"I want to be a helper to people, and I believe the Creator put me here to be a helper," he said. "I was a good warrior."

"I've made peace with that, and the creator has been good to me."

These days Joe goes to every drum because he says they keep him alive. Without them, Joe said he believes he would have been dead already. Sometimes he has to choose which drum to attend because there are times they overlap, but he's always there in spirit if not in person.

"Had I not sobered up I would have never have done this," he said. "People look at me and wonder how I got here, and I tell them it's through hard work and the Creator."

Ge-Ishkonigewag Powwow

Chad Germann and Nicole Terrance Photographers

The new powwow grounds were spectacular and the weather cooperated — mostly — for the first powwow at the new facilities in Minisinaakwaang. Vendors, drummers and hundreds of dancers came from near and far for the festivities. Miigwech to the powwow committee and all who attended.



Ge-niigaanizijig Youth Leadership Program Going Strong

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer







Ge-niigaanizijig, a youth language and leadership program funded by a state grant, is going strong through July. On July 14 students participated in a conference call with Minnie Frias, Tribal Council Member for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Minnie shared the story of her time as Chairwoman of her tribe, how she was the youngest Chairperson, the struggles she endured leading up to her removal from office, and the dedication to her community to re-join the council after shady tribal legislation kept her out of office for 10 years.

Her perseverance was felt by the youth in attendance, which included special visitors from Minneapolis. Sacred Visions is a youth "Rights of Passage" group from South Minneapolis. They are in the same age group and have the same direction as Ge-niigaanizijig, so it looks as though the prophecy of the youth bringing us back to our roots is starting to come true.

When asked how to get youth to engage in tribal politics, Minnie made this recommendation: "Make sure there is an active youth council. Provide many youth programs to teach about voting and politics. They think, today, that they just have to be good enough to work at the casino. Get them engaged in tribal council in younger years. When a tribal member gets educated and makes a better life, that is one less member we need to support and maybe they become involved to give back to their community."

She gave encouragement at the end of the call. "When you decide what you want for your future, go for it. Do what you are passionate about, and you will be successful."

Also on the agenda, Byron and Joseph held a leadership session including a "TedTalk" video and a writing of a cam-

paign speech. Meanwhile, Bagwajinini and Waabishkigaabaw gave Ojibwe Language instruction on VAI Verb Conjugations and how to create Locatives. The eyes were lighting up and the smiles were given freely with the teaching styles of these teachers. Keeping it upbeat and fun aided in the activation of the future leaders. Mii gomaa minik.



Law Enforcement Q & A

The Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department and Office of the Solicitor General held a community meeting at the District I Community Center on July 20 to discuss public safety concerns after Mille Lacs County's revocation of its law enforcement agreement with the Band.

Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati said his team has been working around the clock to ensure a seamless transition when the revocation takes effect at midnight on July 22. The Department is putting together its own records management system and dispatch team and pursuing agreements with state agencies, the cities of Isle and Onamia, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Jared said, "We're looking at ways to make sure this never happens again. Public Law 280 says the state has jurisdiction, not the county. It only makes sense that we have that joint powers agreement with the state of Minnesota instead of the county. The biggest thing we want to accomplish is to become a free-standing, autonomous police department, so in the future if this joint powers agreement goes away we don't have 30 days to make all this happen."

He said the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board has initially determined not to get involved with the dispute between Mille Lacs County and the Band, meaning officers' licenses and law enforcement authority would remain intact.

In its resolution revoking the agreement, the County claimed that Mille Lacs Tribal Police would no longer be a law enforcement agency, but Jared assured members that the claim is false. "We were here before the agreement, and we'll be here after," he said.

The main differences are that Tribal officers will not be dispatched by the County, and it is up in the air which agency will investigate which crimes. Other than that, things will continue as normal.

Jared emphasized that Band members should still dial 911 in the event of an emergency. Tribal Police will monitor County Dispatch and will still be first on the scene in many cases.

There is also a new direct toll-free number for those who want to request Tribal Police service directly: 888-609-5006. The Department's main phone number — 320-532-3430 — can also be used. The non-emergency call center will be open 24/7, Jared said.

Following are the questions posed by community members and the answers given by Police Chief Jared Rosati and Solicitor General Todd R. Matha.

What if you live on fee land, not trust land? Tribal Police will respond to calls from trust land and Band-owned fee land.

What happens if someone is arrested? Tribal Police will arrest and detain. Mille Lacs County will do all of the transporting to the county jail.

Is the response time going to change? No.

Will ambulance service be affected? No.

Will the Band need to build its own jail? No. According to state law, the Sheriff has to receive prisoners.

What about retrocession from Public Law 280? The tribe could seek retrocession, but that would require the approval of the state government, which is a difficult proposition. In most cases, tribes retrocede to bring federal law enforcement to the reservation, but given the implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act at Mille Lacs in January of 2017, that federal presence will already be in place. Also, if you took the state out of the equation, the tribe would be responsible for incarceration, which would be extremely costly.

Would retrocession affect the Band's gaming compact with the State? No.

Is there anything in writing about the county's response time? Nothing specific. The County is planning to have two officers stationed in the area: one at Kathio, and a supervisor at Cove.

Could a person be charged in both state and tribal court? Things will function as they have before. The tribe has the ability to charge criminally in tribal court, but generally chooses not to. However, in the absence of an agreement, tribal officers will perform their duties under the authority of tribal law un-

less they are asked to assist by a state agency.

Has there been any progress in negotiations with Mille Lacs County? The Band met with County Attorney Joe Walsh and County Sheriff Brent Lindgren. The County's requests for changes to the law enforcement agreement will be shared on Tuesday.

How about Aitkin County? Negotiations toward reaching a law enforcement agreement with Aitkin County have been put on hold until this situation is resolved.

If a person is prosecuted under the Tribal Law and Order Act, would the County be able to challenge the reservation boundaries? Possibly, but that would put them in the unenviable position of aligning themselves with someone accused of a serious crime.

What happened at the Onamia City Council meeting? The meeting was for the Council to hear what the Band is offering in terms of a law enforcement agreement. The Council decided to send it to their attorney. These negotiations with the cities will continue even if a new agreement is reached with the County.

Will the 1837 Treaty code still be enforced? Yes, nothing has changed.

What parts of the agreement does the County object to? It's hard to know, because the revocation notice listed things that were not subsequently brought up by the County Attorney and County Sheriff.

Why has the County increased its patrolling of the Reservation? It was poor timing on the County's part. They were implementing a "Toward Zero Deaths" special saturation that had been scheduled in advance.

Will the Tribal Police still respond to calls from the Casino? Most definitely.

Will restraining orders be affected? No. They will still be recognized no matter what court they come from.

See page 4 for more on this story.

Grand Casino Hosting Community Festival During Bassmaster

Grand Casino Mille Lacs will be hosting a Mille Lacs Community Festival during the 2016 Toyota® Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament happening September 15–18, 2016. The Community Festival, which will run September 17 and 18, will showcase local and regional vendors and highlight the businesses and community groups that make the Mille Lacs region a world-class fishing and vacation destination.

The Mille Lacs Community Festival will be held in the front parking lot of Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Saturday, September 17 from noon to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, September 18 from noon to 5 p.m. MLCV expects hundreds of vendors from around the state to participate.

"We're so proud to be hosting this nationally-recognized tournament and showcasing Mille Lacs Lake," said Joe Nay-quonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. "There are so many reasons to visit this region year-round, and we're thrilled that the superb bass fishing is getting the attention that it deserves."

The Toyota® Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament is the finale of the Bassmaster Elite Series and will bring some of the best anglers in the country to fish Mille Lacs Lake. The tournament is a major spectator draw; past tournaments have brought anywhere from 15,000 to 30,000 visitors to the host region. The 2016 Elite Series comprises 10 tournaments in addition to the Classic Bracket event, an increase over the nine events of 2015.



"In addition to highlighting the incredible bass fishing that Mille Lacs Lake offers, visitors will be able to experience the wide-variety of resort and vacation destinations that exist around the lake," Joe continued.

Local resort operators have collaborated to launch a website to showcase the region for visitors. Visitors can go to http://fishmillelacslake.com/ to explore lodging and entertainment options during the tournament.

"Hosting the Toyota® Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament is part of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' commitment

to be a strong community partner and grow the local economy," Joe concluded. "Past events have seen millions of dollars spent on everything from equipment to lodging, meals and entertainment."

An economic analysis of the impact from the Bassmaster tournament held in Orange, TX showed more than \$2 million in positive economic impact.

If you're interested in becoming a vendor during the Mille Lacs Community Expo, please visit **fishmillelacslake.com** and click on events to fill out an application.

Three Band Members are Fighting the Good Fight

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Matt Hatfield is proud of his accomplishments as a boxer, but his eyes light up even more when he talks about his younger brother, Cayman Audie.

"We were at the Danbury casino and they needed a fighter, so he just volunteered," said Matt. "He never had training in his life, but he went in there and knocked the guy out in 14 seconds. That's how he got into fighting."

Matt had been a boxer as a youth, but seeing Cayman in the MMA ring made Matt want to give it a try. His first fight wasn't quite as impressive as his brother's. It took him all of 40 seconds to score a knockout.

June 4 was a busy day for Cayman. After celebrating his graduation from East Central High School, he fought at the Muay Thai Extreme Kickboxing event at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Matt was supposed to fight as well, but his opponent pulled out. Matt was in Cayman's corner, though, to coach him and watch him come out victorious.

When they're not training together, Cayman works on the grounds crew around Aazhoomog, and Matt works with the Niigaan youth program. He's also been teaching some young Band members to box — giving back to the community that got him started in boxing.

"It gets them in shape, and I think it keeps them out of trouble," said Matt. "We tell them not to use what they're learning out of the ring."

Matt, who graduated from Nay Ah Shing in 2008, started boxing when he was nine years old, imitating older guys he looked up to, like Weylin Davis and Tim Taggart.

He joined the Crossroads Boxing Club, where he was taught to fight by Harry Davis, Richard Martin, Ed St. John and others. He moved on to basketball in high school and thought his days in the ring might be behind him — until his brother's MMA fight got him interested in trying something new.

The brothers don't have a coach or trainer. They train each other. Matt shares his boxing expertise with Cayman, and Cayman helps Matt improve his wrestling and kicks.

Rueben St. John, who also fought at the June 4 kickboxing event, came to the sport from a different direction — literally

and figuratively.

Rueben was raised in Chiminising and got involved in Bobby Anderson's Warriors Fitness Tae Kwon Do gym in Hinckley. Bobby, who is the fitness coordinator in Districts II and III, calls Rueben "my star pupil."

When Bobby heard Rueben was getting back into fighting, and working with a different trainer, he said, "No, you're gonna work with me." Rueben cut 30 pounds in two months but hopes to lose another 50 to get back to his favorite weight class, 147 pounds.

Growing up, Rueben was a year-round athlete. "Football, baseball, softball, anything that involved running — I'd be out there," he said.

Now he's back in the ring after a few years off. The June 4 fight was his first since 2009. "It was a 'rust-shaker' fight," he said. "I wasn't ready, but I fought anyway, just to get back in the game."

He also does a lot of self-training in addition to working with Bobby and Troy Hill, another Band member. He sometimes goes to St. Cloud or Superior, Wisc., for sparring.

Rueben also believes that sports can steer kids in the right direction. "Sports kept me out of trouble," he said. "After I was done with practice or games, I was too tired to get in trouble."

He also credits his grandparents David 'Mosay' Sam and Sharon Sam, as well as Beatrice Taylor, with teaching him right from wrong. Beatrice would say, "Boy, you behave out there. Don't make your parents or grandparents mad."

Rueben has always been a hard worker — in and out of the ring. He's worked as a construction laborer since high school, and last year he graduated from the concrete apprenticeship training put together by the Band's TERO director, Craig Hansen.

When he's not working or fighting, Rueben spends time with his wife and three stepchildren.

Rueben describes his simple but exhausting life, smiling like he's living the dream: "Work construction, then go train, and after dinner, go to sleep."







Top: Cayman Audie came out victorious at a kickboxing match June 4 at Grand Casino Hinckley. Middle: Reuben St. John is back in the ring after taking a few years off. Bottom: Matt Hatfield works in the Niigaan program when he's not training with his brother Cayman.

A Band Elder's Story about Her Journey of Live Organ Donation

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer



When Carol Hernandez learned that her younger brother Larry Johnson was in Stage 5 renal failure and needed a kidney donor, she immediately volunteered to give him one of hers.

"There was never a question of not doing it; the only question was how soon could it happen," said Carol,

a Band Elder who is a Wraparound Facilitator for Community Support Services.

"I did not need any time to think about it as it seemed like something that one would do for any family member in a health crisis," she said. "I immediately started researching renal failure and live kidney donation and contacted the Hennepin County Medical Center transplant team to notify them I would like to be considered."

Another sister, Band Elder Kitty Johnson, also agreed to be tested to be a donor. Both women began the initial testing to see if their blood types matched and to meet with Larry's healthcare team. They had meetings with a transplant coordinator, a nutritionist, surgeon, nephrologist, pharmacist and others.

The family learned what the benefits were getting a kidney from a person who is still living rather than someone who had passed away.

"We were also told that the waiting list for my brother's blood type was about six years," she said.

Kitty was eliminated as a potential donor after the blood screening, but Carol moved forward for additional testing and was approved as a donor. She was given her own medical team, and the surgery was scheduled for June 24.

A week before the surgery she had to undergo additional medical tests to make sure she was ready to donate. Larry also had to do the same.

Sadly, the tests revealed that there was something abnormal going on, and the surgeons made the call to postpone the surgery while they figured out what the abnormality was.

"Well, after that, it was one thing after another. My blood sugars were dropping and went down to 57. Then I developed a urinary tract infection, and before I finished the antibiotics I found myself in an ambulance with a fever of 105.1, rapid pulse, very low oxygen and a bad cough," Carol said.

"I had double pneumonia, congestive heart failure and something else,'" she said.

That something else turned out to be anaplasmosis — a tick-borne disease. She also had a virus, and that meant the antibiotics didn't work.

"With all of this, the transplant team had no choice but to eliminate me as a donor," she said. "I was heartbroken. The search for a live donor for my brother has started again."

Larry, who is also a Band Elder, called Carol his sister-angel and said on his Facebook page that "we are both very disappointed in this turn of events."

"Both of us accept that this happened for a reason, and we remain hopeful that a new donor will be found," he continued on his post.

Larry still considers Carol a rock star for her efforts and desire to help and is still encouraging people to get tested to see if they can help him or others by becoming a donor.

Though there are some Native Americans who believe that donating an organ is both a physical sacrifice as well as a spiritual one, it is a choice that each person must make for themselves, Carol said.

"Being Midewiwin I was told I'm not supposed to donate, but I don't think the Creator would punish me for helping my family," Carol said.

It is estimated that there are more than 112,000 on the nation's organ transplant list. A disproportionate number of those are Native Americans, according to estimates.

Chronic kidney disease is a major health problem in Native American communities, and compared to the country's white population, Native American's are 2.8 times more likely to experience End Stage Renal Disease related to diabetes, according to 2010 U.S. Renal Data.

"I'm very disappointed that I wasn't able to help my younger brother," she said. "It's unknown why he has renal failure, and my donation could have saved his life or extended it, but we will never know now because I can't donate."

"I learned a lot through this process, and we have so many Band members in need of a kidney donation," said Carol. "I encourage anyone that is able to go through live donor testing to please consider it.

"Our Ne Ia Shing clinic has worked with the HCMC Transplant team and can provide education to anyone interested in learning about donation."

Larry, who says on his Facebook page that he is "looking for a super hero," is asking for Band members to consider sharing the message that donors are needed. His search is for people who are blood type O positive and might be willing to donate a kidney.

His team at the hospital's transplant office is revisiting the list to see if there are any other viable donors, but in the meantime Larry and his family would like others to consider getting tested. All testing and transplant costs are paid for by Larry's insurance.

For more information contact Eugenia Steffens, the Kidney Donor Coordinator at Hennepin County Medical Center at 612-873-7705. Those who are not a match for Larry can be considered to be a donor through the Paired Exchange Program.

Homeowners Receive Free Smoke Detector Installation

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Thanks to a partnership between the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Emergency Management Department and the American Red Cross, Band members who own their own houses qualify to have free fire alarms installed in their homes.

To date, the Emergency Management Department has installed alarms in 48 homes of Band members across each district and the urban area.

"It's very important because it could be a lifesaver," said Paul Sam, who helped install alarms in seven homes in Minneapolis. Paul is a firefighter in Minneapolis and a Band member.

Those who live in Band-owned homes already have the integrated smoke alarm system in their homes, so

this offer is for those who own their homes, according to Monte Fronk, the Band's Coordinator of the Emergency Management Department.

Smoke detector installation takes about 20 minutes, and the homeowner will receive fire prevention materials. Smoke detectors for those who are hearing-impaired are available and can be requested from the Emergency Management Department.

"The smoke alarms have a five-year lifespan due to the chemical sensor breaking down and giving false alarms or chirping," Monte said.

Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, out-

side of each sleeping area and on every level of your home. They should be tested monthly and replaced as needed.

"Families should know about smoke detectors, and should have an evacuation plan and a place to meet if there is a fire," said Paul, who has been a firefighter in Minneapolis for 15 years.

"I would strongly encourage everyone to get them because they are free and they are professionally installed."

To have alarms installed contact Monte via email or by phone at monte.fronk@millelacsband.com or 320-532-4181, ext. 2558 or on his cell at 320-362-0435.





Band Member and Minneapolis Firefighter Paul Sam and Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk installed smoke detectors in homes around the Twin Cities in June.

Duck White Shares Knowledge of Wiigwaas and Wiigob

Brett Larson Staff Writer

"My uncles told me before you cut into the tree you have to put your tobacco down and tell that tree that you're going to take its skin."

— Duck White

Donald "Duck" White has been gathering wiigwaas (birch bark) longer than many of us have been alive. He started at age 12 in his home on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation near Hayward, Wisc.

This year Duck went to Wisconsin and gathered bark to use in classes at Pine Grove Leadership Academy, where he'll start his tenth year teaching culture to the kids.

Duck, who is married to Band member Bonita White, also held a class this summer where he taught students how to make baskets and small canoes.

"They wanted it to last longer," Duck said. "I told them, 'Well, maybe next year we can have a couple sessions.' They enjoyed going out and getting the bark, being out in the woods, learning what direction the grain of the bark should go, how to sew it."

When Duck was a kid, his aunts, cousins and grandmother worked at Historyland, a tourist attraction that featured a traditional Anishinaabe village, along with a lumberjack camp.

He was taught how to gather wiigwaas from the Elders who worked there.

"Those old guys took me out and showed me how to do

it," Duck recalled. "Since I was the smallest one, they put me on their shoulders with the knife because I could get up high."

Duck helped to reconstruct the village, cutting wiigwaas to cover the wigwams and sewing it together with wiigob — the inner bark of the basswood tree.

"They showed me all the tricks to sewing bark on wigwams, helping out with the canoes and making different types of baskets," said Duck.

He even learned to make traditional bark baskets used for boiling maple sap — the method used to make maple sugar before Indians had access to iron kettles.

"We had tours of that village constantly, busloads of people from the different countries and different parts of the United States," Duck said. "It was interesting to see people who had birch in their countries but didn't know what to do with it."

Birch grows around the world, but only in North America did tribes learn how useful it could be. Birch bark canoes could be sunk in the lake in winter to preserve them, Duck said, and dry pieces could be made workable again by soaking them in water. Food was preserved underground in birch bark lockers. Birch bark scrolls were used to pass on traditional knowledge.

Duck still gathers bark each year, preferring a hot day in mid- to late-June. For most projects he likes the bark from trees that are about 10-inches in diameter, but for canoes or larger baskets, bigger trees are needed.

"You always try to find the smoothest bark without any knots or branches on it," Duck said. "My uncles told me before you cut into the tree you have to put your tobacco down and tell that tree that you're going to take its skin. You put a little slice in it, and if it pops, you know it's ready. You can't cut very far into the bark, maybe an eighth of an inch. Otherwise you'll kill the tree. It's a delicate tree."





Top: Danielle Hughes was one of Duck's students in a birch bark class at Pine Grove Leadership Academy this summer. Bottom: Duck White showed off some of his creations. "At powwows when we're waiting to sing, I'll work on baskets, but they all disappear by the end of the day," he says.

Hatchery-Raised Walleyes Stocked in Namachers, Sullivan

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The DNR's walleye hatchery pilot project hit another milestone in July, as thousands of fingerlings were stocked in Sullivan Lake in District I and Namachers Lake in District III.

Executive Director Susan Klapel got her feet wet and hands dirty a few times, but the bulk of the work was accomplished by her staff: biologists Carl Klimah, Chad Weiss and Jordan Williams, along with summer intern Jourdain Wedll.

During the spring spearing season, eggs and milt were harvested from Mille Lacs walleyes and hatched in a new facility in District I. Over a million fry were released in to the "giigoo (fish) ponds" (the old wastewater treatment ponds in District I).

By early July, the fry were large enough to catch in fyke nets, which are like a series of funnels that fish swim into but can't escape. The three-inch-long fingerlings were put into a holding tank on the shore of the giigoo ponds, where they were treated to make sure any invasive species would not be transferred with the fish

From there they were put in another tank on the back of a DNR pickup and driven to Namachers and Sullivan. As of mid-July, about 4,400 fingerlings had been transferred to Namachers and another 10,000 to Sullivan.

Susan said the project has been welcomed by the Sullivan Lake association. She's also excited to watch the rebirth of Namachers, which had been restored to create an environment more suitable to the survival of walleyes and panfish.

The lake is already full of minnows, which should serve as food to the fingerlings. The DNR has also found evidence that

crappies and bluegills are reproducing in the lake, which will provide more fodder for the voracious walleyes.

Susan points out that the male walleyes mature in four years and the females in five, so it will take at least that long to see if natural reproduction is occurring. "It's cool to watch," said Susan. "It's like starting a whole new fishery from scratch." Until then, the DNR will continue stocking the lake to build up the walleye population.

Namachers will not just be a recreational fishing lake but will also be a storehouse for the unique Mille Lacs strain of walleyes, in case climate change or other factors continue to affect the Mille Lacs walleye population.







Left: Thousands of walleye fingerlings have been trapped and transported to two lakes as part of a walleye rearing pilot project. Center: Executive Director Susan Klapel watched as Carl Klimah, Jordan Williams and Jourdain Wedll untangled the fyke net at the "giigoo ponds" in District I. Right: The long fyke net guides fish through a series of funnels until they are trapped.

Graduation Day

Arne Vainio, M.D. Guest Writer



We were at the graduation ceremony for the Harbor City International School in Duluth, Minnesota, and the commencement address was by Gaelynn Lea Tressler. She is the winner of the 2016 National Public Radio

Tiny Desk Concert series, and she knows about and exemplifies overcoming hardships and truly appreciating the things we take for granted.

She is beautiful and eloquent and she speaks from a position only she can speak from. She sings and she plays her violin from somewhere deep in her soul. She talked to the graduating high school seniors and she talked to our son and she reminded them to always enrich their own lives and to enrich the lives of others. She talked to them of pursuing their dreams and never giving up. She played her violin and she sang to them and the crowd was speechless and the auditorium was silent as her last notes were fading. You can watch an excerpt from her NPR Tiny Desk concert performance on YouTube by searching "Gaelynn Lea Someday." Please don't pass it up.

I was thinking about our son in this context when I was asked to be the keynote speaker for the University of Minnesota Medical School Native American graduates a few weeks ago. There were six graduates, and while it seems that is not very many, these are very important graduates. They are important to their families and important to their tribes and important to their communities.

Major life transitions should always carry ceremonies. There was a time when our people celebrated times of change and advancing to the next stage of life. Maybe some still do this, but it didn't happen for me. I don't really even know when I became a man. Was it the first time I drove a car? Was it the first time I crashed a car?

There are only a little over 300 members in the Association

of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) and six more will be welcome. I spoke to the graduates as a representative of AAIP and I spoke to them as a representative of the University of Minnesota Medical School. I spoke to them as a representative of the Seattle Indian Health Board and I spoke to them as a physician practicing on the Fond du Lac reservation.

I spoke to them as someone who came from and still remembers poverty.

These new physicians have already seen death and they've already seen new life. But only from the sidelines.

I had the graduates stand, and I gave them all asemaa (sacred tobacco) that I made from the inner bark of red willow. I told them how I made it, and I told them I stay up late at night making it because only then can I be alone with my thoughts. I told them I make it exactly the way I was taught and that the one who taught me told me a story as we were making it the first time:

He was a sniper in Vietnam and his job was to do as he was instructed. There was a woman in a village who was organizing people in a way that was not welcome. He watched her for a long time that morning from a great distance. Her children were playing in the dirt yard, and there were pigs and dogs and chickens running around. He watched her washing her face in a white enamel basin with a red stripe around the rim. She splashed the water on her face with both hands and she flipped her head back and her long black hair arched over her head with water flying from it, and that's when he pulled the trigger.

She died with her children around her. That was over forty years ago, and he hasn't slept since.

I always think of him and I think of her when I make my asemaa, and I think of them when I offer it and when I give it away. We give tobacco when we ask something important of someone or when we want answers or healing or if we wish to honor someone.

I had the graduates stand, and I walked through the assembled crowd and among their families, and I put asemaa into the hands of each of the graduates and I had them remain standing.

"I ask you in front of your families and your teachers and your Elders to take care of our communities. Take care of our babies and take care of our elders and our grandparents. Take care of our addicted and our imprisoned and those less fortunate. You have joined the most ethical and respected profession there is, and you need to honor that in your work, but you also need to honor it in your home and community life. Others will look up to you and look to you for guidance, and you need to have a pure heart to provide that guidance. This is a transition point, and this asemaa means you have left your old life behind. As you travel from this point forward, you will be the ones families will turn to and there will be a sacred and unspoken pact between you and those families. You need to honor that pact."

I was the first one to hold this brand new baby not so long ago. He has an uphill battle in front of him.

I put my thumbprint on his foot and I whispered into his ear...

"We need you to be strong. We need you to listen to your elders. We need you to learn our songs and our stories. We need you to be a healer. When that time comes, you come and talk to me

I'll be waiting for you."

Arne Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at a-vainio@hotmail.com.



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Band member graduates were honored at a graduation celebration hosted by the Higher Education Program on June 29 at Grand Casino Hinckley. Graduates and their families were treated to a lunch and inspired by comments from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Executive Director of Education Joycelyn Shingobe and Deputy Administrator Ed Minnema — who has since been confirmed as the new Commissioner of Education. Ed read a long list of graduates' names and presented certificates to those in attendance, and Higher Ed staff passed out an impressive array of door prizes. Among the celebrants were Wanetta Thompson and her daughter Kyrah, and Ginger Weyaus and her family.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 6: Gaawin and Gego

Gaawiin and Gego! No and Don't!

In English, if you want to tell someone not to do something, you use "Don't." In Ojibwemow-in (the Ojibwe language), you use "Gego."

In English, you can be more specific by adding a verb: Don't run, Don't fight, etc. In Ojibwemowin, you add a verb plus a suffix: ken (pronounced like 'cane'): Gego _____ken

Here is an example: Gego izhaaken! Don't go there! If you're speaking to a group, you say "Gego izhaakegon!" — "Don't 'y'all' go there!"

Here are a few more verbs to use with "gego."

English	Spoken to Individual	Spoken to Group
Don't do that!	Gego izhichigeken i'iw.	Gego izhichigekegon i'iw.
Don't run!	Gego bimibatooken.	Gego bimibatookegon.
Don't eat that!	Gego miijiken i'iw.	Gego miijikegon i'iw.
Don't say it!	Gego ikidoken i'iw.	Gego ikidokegon i'iw.
Don't fight!	Gego miigaazoken.	Gego miigaazokegon.

To say you're not going to do something, you use the Ojibwe word for "no": gaawiin! You also need to add a suffix to the verb: Gaawiin ______ siin/ziin (Use ziin when it ends with m or n.)

English	1st Person (I)	2nd Person (you)	3rd Person (S/he)
Not going.	Gaawiin nindizhaasiin.	Gaawiin gidizhaasiin.	Gaawiin izhaasiin.
Not hungry.	Gaawiin nibakadesiin.	Gaawiin gibakadesiin.	Gaawiin bakadesiin.
Not tired.	Gaawiin indayekozisiin.	Gaawiin gidayekozisiin.	Gaawiin ayekozisiin.
Don't know.	Gaawiin ningikendanziin.	Gaawiin gikendanziin.	Gaawiin kendanziin.
Not working.	Gaawiin indanokiisiin.	Gaawiin gidanokiisiin.	Gaawiin anokiisiin.

Now if you know "minwendan" means "like," you should be able to translate, "Gaawiin niminwendanziin i'iw."

In last month's calendar, we made a mistake in transcribing Waabishkigaabaw's Ojibwe lesson. It said "Niwii-pagiz dibikong." Niwii-pagiz means "I want to go swim/I'm going to go swimming" whereas "dibikong" means "last night". Remember "ingii-" means "I was" or "I verbed" so it should read "Ingii-pagiz dibikong" meaning "I went swimming last night."

Veteran & Active Duty Family Flags

The Iskigamizigan Powwow Committee is currently seeking out Mille Lacs Band families that intend to honor a family Veteran and/or Active Duty Band members by flying their US Flag at the upcoming 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow which is being held August 19–21, 2016!

Please note that the Flag raising will take place on Friday, August 19, 2016. All Flags will remain flying for the duration of the powwow and will be illuminated throughout Friday and Saturday nights. The lowering of the Flags will take place Sunday, August 21, 2016 prior to the Adult

exhibitions. We strongly encourage you and your family to listen for the MC to announce for your family to start gathering at your Veteran's Flag pole.

If your family intends on honor a veteran in your family during this time, please complete the form below. All completed forms can be returned to Allen Weyaus at email aweyaus@grcasinos. com or mail to Allen Weyaus Attention Powwow Committee, 43408 Oodena Dr., Onamia, Minnesota, 56359.

Deadline to confirm your intention is August 17, 2016!

Name of Veteran/Active Duty family member:
Rank:
Years of Service:
Military Service:
Military Operation(s):
Medals Awarded:
Who will be carrying in the Veteran's Flag (Name, Rank, Military Service):
Please provide your name and contact information:











Hoop Dreams

In June the Niigaan program held basketball camps in all three districts for students in grades 6–12. The kids had a great time and learned a lot from coaches Jim Russell of Central Lakes College, Larry McKenzie of Minneapolis North High School and Matt Bowen of UMD. They were assisted by Niigaan director Byron Ninham, Darrell Shingobe, Matt Roberson and other Band members and employees.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy August Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Marie Barstow Frances Jean Benjamin Wendy May Benjamin Clarence Roy Boyd Clayton Jay Boyd Debra Elaine Brooks Marlys Louise Bushey Myrna Joy Ceballos Karen Marie Clark John Dewey Colsrud III Geraldine DeFoe **Edward Ernest Dunkley** Roxanne Julie Emery Gary Dean Frye Dorinda Fay Garbow JoAnne Sue Garbow Samuel Garbow Jr. Barbara Maxine Goodman Diana Guizar Rosalie Noreen Hallaway Mary Jean Harpster **Bradley Harrington** Robert Martin Houle Jr. George Ben Jackson Patricia Clarise Jones Doris Kegg Lorraine Marian Keller

Joseph Franklin Knudtson Carol Elizabeth Kornkven Andy Mitchell Lynda Lou Mitchell Gerry Warden Mortenson Delia Ann Nayquonabe Margaret Rose Premo Linda Christine Quaderer Bruce Anthony Ray Terry Lee Ray Sharon Marie Rogers Kimberly Ann Sam Theresa Joy Schaaf William David Schaaf David Duane Shaugobay Bernadette Smith-Benjamin **Daniel John Staples** Connie Jean Taylor Janice Louise Taylor James Martin Thomas Richard Henry Thomas Jr. Sylvester W. Thomas Jr. Barbara Ellen Toth John Wayne Towle Michael Laverne Wade Alrick George Wadena Jr. Carmen Denise Weous Donna Jean Wind Eloise Betsy Wind Franklin John Woyak`

Happy August Birthdays:

Happy 8th birthday on 8/5 to my bird, Adriana Benjamin! From, Dad. • Happy birthday, PJ on 8/5! Love, the Harrington family.
• Happy birthday, Sharon on 8/6! Love, the Harrington family.
• Happy 50th birthday, Janet Swierczek on 8/9! • Happy birthday, Mom & Dad on 8/15! Love, Val. • Happy birthday, Gram Kim & Papa Brad on 8/15! Love, Pie and Kev. • Happy birthday, Jay on 8/16! Love, your brothers and sissys.

Happy birthday, Gabbi 8/20!
 Love, the Harrington family.
 Happy birthday, Mickey on 8/20!
 Love, the Harrington family.
 Happy birthday to my heautiful daughter Shayla

my beautiful daughter **Shayla Livingston** on 8/23! Love,
Mom.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy 7th Birthday to **CaddyBug** on 7/10. Love

always, Mommy, Gabe dad,
Gramma T.T, Benny, Joshy,
Lolo & Freddie. • Happy 10th
Birthday to **Tammy Lynn**on 7/10. Love always, Dad,
Danielle, Buzz, Benny, Joshy,
CaddyBug, JerBear, Lolo &
Freddie. • Happy 8th Birthday
on to **Joshy** on 7/15. Love
always, Mommy, Gabe dad,
Gramma T.T, Benny, CaddyBug,
Lolo & Freddie.

Other

Announcements:

Thank you to friends and family who have sent their condolences, flowers and have helped with the tragic loss of my son, Louis Franklin St. John III. Thank you to Lee Staples and his helpers, who spoke for my son, and hosted a Feast in his honor on Thursday, 6/23. Also thanks to Scott from Shelley Funeral Chapel in Onamia for being courteous and supportive during this difficult time, and to Band departments and leaders for their help and support.

Miigwech,
Dana Lou Nickaboine •
I want to thank all for the help I
was given during my move into
my new home. The Workforce
Team were great. They all
worked so hard. The Housing
Department was always
attentive to any questions and
worries I had, right away. We
are so fortunate to have our
Band provide us with so many
services.

Submit Birthday Announcements

A Chi Mi Gwech,

Viola Hendren

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Myles Gorham at **myles.gorham@ redcircleagency.com**

or **call 612-465-0653**.

The deadline for the September issue is August 15.

CIRCLE OF HEALING & STRENGTH

Anishinaabe Strong

A second conference in response to the Chief Executive's roundtables on the opiate problem will be held Aug. 3 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. For more on Anishinaabe Strong: Circle of Healing and Strength, see page 5, call 320-515-0824 or email Bradley E. Harrington at nazhike_awaasanang@yahoo.com or Christopher Gahbow at Christopher.gahbow@millelacsband.com.

Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration320-292-0258Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration320-630-7415Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development320-630-2496Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services320-630-2607Ed Minnema, Commissioner of Education320-630-0674Susan Klapel, DNR Executive Director320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

August 19 – 21

Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

Community Health Fairs

Mark your calendar! Community Health Fairs will be held on the following days: District III, Oct. 25; District II, Oct. 26; District I, Oct. 27; District IIa, Oct. 28. The theme this year is "Community Health Journey."

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Open Gym

Mondays — Thursdays, 5:30 — 9 p.m. District I Community Center

Elders Beading Group

Mondays, 5-8 p.m. District I Assisted Living Unit

MANOOMINIKE-GIIZIS RICING MOON AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Band Assembly meetings begin at 10 a.m. Locations and times are subject to change.	Manoomin: Wild rice Waabi-manoomin: White rice	Bawa'iganaak: Rice knocker Gaandakii'igan: Push pole	Circle of Health and Strength Conference Grand Casino Mille Lacs (see page 5) Cultural Awareness 10 a.m. — 12 p.m. Urban Office Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401 Also on August 17	COH Outreach 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office Jiimaan: canoe Jiimaanike: Make a canoe	DII/DIIa Community Fun Day Velleyfair Veterans Coffee and Treats 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. American Indian Center Annual ALU Elder Rummage Sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. DI Assisted Living Unit CPR Class 1 p.m. DI Community Center	Kids Crafts: Bead a Ring 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum Mille Lacs Indian Museum's 56th B-Day Celebration 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
7 DI Valleyfair Fun Day Gaandakii'ige: S/he poles a boat Ingaandakii'ige: I pole a boat	Bawa'am: S/he knocks rice Imbawa'am: I knock rice	Community Education Forum 5:30 p.m. Nay Ah Shing lower school and Pine Grove Academy (see page 16)	DI Community Meeting DI (Mille Lacs) Community Center Elder Bingo 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401	COH Outreach (DII) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. DII (East Lake) Community Center COH Outreach (DIIa) 1– 4 p.m. DIIa (Isle) Community Center MCT Quarterly Meetings Fotrune Bay Casino	MCT Quarterly Meetings Fotrune Bay Casino Manoominike: S/he rices, goes ricing, makes rice Nimanoominike: I rice, go ricing, make rice	Mimigoshkam: S/he threshes rice Nimigoshkam: I thresh rice
Nooshkaatoon: Winnow it (wild rice) Ninooshkaatoon: I winnow it	Minopidan: Like the taste Niminopidaan: I like the taste	COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. DIII (Aazhoomog) Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing	DIIa Legislative Meeting DIIa (Isle) Community Center DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center	18 Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing	50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds DII Legislative Meeting 1 p.m. DII (East Lake) Community Center	50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds
21 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds Fun Run 9 – 10:30 a.m. Open House 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum	Zaaga'igan: Lake Agamiing: At the lake	23 Band Assembly Meeting Minisinaakwaang	24 DIIa Community Meeting 5 p.m. DIIa (Isle) Community Center Elder Bingo 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401	25 DII Community Meeting 5 p.m. DII (East Lake) Community Center Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church Band Assembly Chi Minising	Ziibi: River Agaami-ziibi: Across the river	Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum
Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum	29 Gichigami: Sea, large lake, Lake Superior	30 Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. DI (Mille Lacs) Community Center Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI (Mille Lacs) Community Center Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog	31 Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401	Visit millelacsband.com Elder Supplement A The Elder Supplement ha Living Adjustment (COLA) Elders will notice that the	edcircleagency.com or calen/calendar for additional M djustment s been increased to reflect the since this increase has not eir July checks will include ancrease for January 2015 to	e Social Security Cost of been added since 2015, an additional payment of

Fundraiser for Melissa's Headstone

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

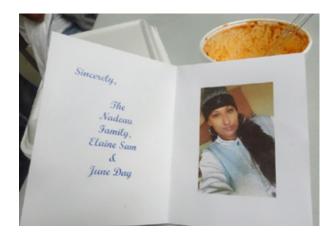
The line of people was constant on July 7 at the District I Community Center. Their faces were happy, yet the reason they all came together makes it special. The children of Melissa Cash, with the help of family and friends, were raising money to pay for their mother's headstone.

Melissa Cash unexpectedly passed away last year, which devastated the lives of her eight kids. With the trauma of losing a parent, her kids pulled through the year with her son, Eddie Nadeau, graduating from Nay Ah Shing and her daughter, Taylor Nadeau, being accepted into the Ge-niigaanizijig Leadership Program.

Feeling that something needed to be done for their mother, they decided that getting her a headstone would be a task they would do together. They made posters, designed shirts and organized the menu to ensure that the job they did together was purposeful and effective.

Indian tacos, frybread and chili, from Melissa's own recipe, were being served during the fundraiser. Melissa, known for her cooking, instilled into her children the drive to feed people, which they then used in their time of grief to have a positive impact on each other and their community.

They raised over \$3,000 toward the purchase of the headstone and would like to thank the volunteers and community for all the donations and support shown in their time of family dedication.







3rd Annual MLCV Family Golf Outing Registration Open

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is pleased to host the 3rd Annual Family Golf Outing at Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley. This fun, multigenerational event includes a 9-hole scramble, contests and refreshments, and each registrant will receive a special gift bag.

Details:

- Saturday, September 10
- Shotgun start: 9 a.m.
- Registration is free; limited to the first 36 teams
- Teams must be comprised of two adults and two youth players

Prizes:

- Youth Skills Games
- Registration goodie bags
- Cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$400
- Youth "Closest-to-the-pin" contest!

To register your team, please contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810 or bgruber@mlcorporateventures.com.



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Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Community Education Forum

A community education forum will be held on August 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag, with an Interactive TV link to Pine Grove Leadership Academy. The purpose of the forum is to discuss the community's vision for the Nay Ah Shing middle and upper schools. Meals will be provided at both locations.

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REFLECTIONS ON A ROYAL YEAR

PAGE 6

PINE COUNTY, BAND AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER CIRCLE OF HEALTH
CONFERENCE
FOCUSES ON
CULTURE

ANGLERS
HIT QUOTA;
GOVERNOR
SAYS "FISH ON"

EDUCATION COMMISSIONER SEEKS INPUT, SHARES VISION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MELANIE BENJAMIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! August has been a month of non-stop action.

As a government, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will do whatever is necessary to ensure our treaty rights are protected. The Mille Lacs Band — along with Fond du Lac and the Wisconsin Bands — strongly objected to the State of Minnesota's decision to keep Lake Mille Lacs open for catch-and-release Ogaa (walleye) fishing by non-Indian anglers despite data showing that the State had exceeded its quota. In response to the Bands' objections, the Governor shifted gears and announced that Minnesota would close walleye fishing on September 6th.

Although this decision appears to recognize the significant risks the State's fishery posed to the resource, the Mille Lacs Band remains deeply concerned that the State chose to dramatically exceed its harvest allocation; it is estimated that by the time of the closure the walleye kill in the State's fishery will be nearly double its allocation. This raises serious doubts about the State's commitment to this resource, and its trustworthiness to keep its word when it comes to future agreements. I have personally conveyed these concerns to Governor Dayton.

Mille Lacs Band biologists continue to work with other tribal biologists and GLIFWC to examine the data the State used to justify their decision to exceed its allocation, in violation of its agreement with the Bands and the Court's orders. The biologists will also continue to assess the potential negative impact from the State's overage on the future walleye populations when the final State harvest numbers are known. We will then formulate an appropriate remedy for the State's violation. The Court's orders establish a process for addressing violations, and we will follow that process in close consultation with the other Bands.

As we have for hundreds of years, we remain focused on being responsible stewards of our natural resources, including Lake Mille Lacs walleye. We continue to believe that it is the shared responsibility of the entire community of people who utilize the lake to prioritize the protection of the walleye for future generations.

Second, we continue to be focused on protecting public safety for all Band Members despite Mille Lacs County's cancellation of our law enforcement agreement. We are continuing our efforts to strengthen the authority of tribal law enforcement officers, including securing federal law enforcement credentials, and are monitoring situations in which the County has failed to provide effective law enforcement services to the Reservation.

A representative from the United States Department of Justice visited the reservation a few weeks ago and invited the Band to enter into mediation with the county, which we agreed to do. Mille Lacs County, however, declined mediation, but still stated it would like to negotiate a new agreement with the Band and would prepare a written proposal for the Band's consideration. The County has now informed us that it wants any negotiations to be confidential. Although we have agreed to this request, the County is seeking an exemption from its obligations under the Public Disclosure Act to ensure confidentiality. To date, we have not received a proposal for a new agreement from the County.

Although we remain open to discussing matters related to how we can improve law enforcement for Band Members and all citizens served by our Tribal Police, we will never compromise our reservation boundary. We will continue to keep Band Members updated as this matter progresses.

On August 3, we held our second Circle of Healing and Strength Conference at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. This was an outstanding conference that focused on finding solutions to the drug problems that plague our reservation. While the first con-

ference focused on the science of addiction, this conference focused on culture. Information was shared about ceremonies, Big Drum teachings and historical perspectives on family violence. I continue to feel hopeful that we will beat this epidemic, but the entire community needs to be involved. Solutions to the drug problem were discussed and information provided about ceremonies, Big Drum teachings and historical perspectives on family violence. Chi Miigwech to Brad Harrington Jr., who did an outstanding job organizing this conference.

Earlier in the month, I hosted a meeting for Minnesota tribes of the Indian Law Resource Center, which I am a board member of. This meeting focused on how tribes can strengthen their sovereignty through working with the United Nations and leveraging the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Finally, many Band women were able to attend an outstanding conference of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN). Miigwech to the local women who assisted with fundraising and planning this conference. Many Band women returned feeling invigorated and ready to meet the challenges facing our families and community.

In closing, one Band woman is making her mark by being the first Band Member to run for the State Legislature. Chilah Brown is the DFL endorsed candidate for the Minnesota State Senate. She has tremendous energy, vision and commitment to public service. It is more important than ever that Band Members get out the vote in November so we can make history and have an ally in the State Legislature! Miigwech!

Melini Benjani





Great Turnout for Police Open House

The Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department held an open house on Aug. 3. Officers prepared food for guests, gave tours of the department, and let kids climb on equipment and operate the sirens and lights. Chief Jared Rosati was pleased with the turnout of over 200 — a marked increase over last year's event. He said it was a great show of support from the community at a time when the authority of the Tribal Police has been challenged by Mille Lacs County.

Pine County, Band Agree to Communicate and Collaborate

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and the four members of the Band Assembly approved a Joint Resolution last month approving a Statement of Principles on Government-to-Government Relations between the Band and Pine County.

At a meeting held at Aazhoomog Community Center on July 26, Melanie and the Pine County Board of Commissioners signed the agreement recognizing each government's unique authority and promising to work together on behalf of all citizens.

The Resolution and Statement of Principles carry no financial commitments or legal obligations but demonstrate mutual respect and a desire for collaboration.

The action came about after Mille Lacs County heard about a similar agreement between Cass County and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Mille Lacs County shared the agreement with the Pine County Board, who approached the Band about creating something similar.

Representatives of the two governments then went to work drafting a Statement of Principles on which both could agree.

The Statement acknowledges the Band's sovereign authority and recognizes both governments' desire to serve the best interests of constituents and improve their quality of life.

Both governments agree on 18 "aspirational principles" including that all persons deserve equal access to justice, public safety, police and fire protection, clean air and water, a sanitary environment, a good education, affordable housing, adequate health care, and good transportation systems.

Both governments also agree that the elderly deserve to live in dignity, that incarcerated persons deserve fair and equitable treatment, and that persons suffering from substance abuse deserve access to treatment.

The final aspirational principle is: "All persons deserve to live without fear or discrimination, to pursue employment, to pursue happiness, to exercise their religion, to have the protection of the law, to maintain their traditions and language, to be healthy, to be safe, and to live from infancy to old age in

peace and tranquility."

The agreement also lays the groundwork for government-to-government communication and cooperation.

The Statement says seeking better communication and understanding would improve relations and services, improve the lives of Band members and all citizens of the county, and reduce tension and conflict, saving both parties time and money.

Mille Lacs County, which includes District I and District IIa and the entire 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation, has a long history of opposition to the Band.

In the 1990s, Mille Lacs County joined other counties in opposing Band members' exercise of 1837 treaty rights, which were reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 2000s, Mille Lacs County brought the Band back to federal court in an unsuccessful attempt to prove the disestablishment of the 1855 reservation.

More recently Mille Lacs County revoked a law enforce-

ment agreement that was one of the few examples of the two governments working together. The revocation came in part because of the U.S. Government's declaration that the 1855 reservation still exists, according to a resolution passed by the Mille Lacs County Board.

Going back further, in 1901 and 1921 two Mille Lacs County Sheriffs were involved in destroying Band members' villages and forcing them from their homes. These incidents were recorded in non-Indian newspapers of the era, including the Princeton Union, the Little Falls Herald, the Minneapolis Journal and the St. Paul Globe.

Aitkin County, which includes the District II community, has denied the Band's request to enter into a law enforcement agreement to allow Tribal Police to better serve County residents.

In contrast, Pine County has a law enforcement agreement with the Band, and with this new agreement has advanced its spirit of cooperation.



Commissioner Josh Mohr, Board Chair Curt Rossow, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Commissioner Matt Ludwig and Commissioner Steve Chaffee met together at the Aazhoomog Community Center on July 26.

Mille Lacs Reservation Law Enforcement Timeline

The Mille Lacs Band and Mille Lacs County are still considering what's next after the County revoked its law enforcement agreement with the Band on June 21 of this year. Although there are no new developments to report for this issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin, the following history of law enforcement on the reservation provides some helpful context for those seeking to understand the issue.

1953: Congress enacted Public Law 280, in part because of the absence of adequate tribal institutions for law enforcement. Public Law 280 applies to six states, including Minnesota. It required the state to assume criminal jurisdiction over all Indian reservations within the state with the exception of Red Lake. That jurisdiction does not extend, however, to criminal statutes the courts would classify as "civil-regulatory" rather than "criminal-prohibitory" under Public Law 280.

1973: The Bois Forte Band retroceded Public Law 280, which meant the tribe and federal government exercised criminal jurisdiction on tribal lands. The action was supported by the Minnesota Legislature.

1975: The Mille Lacs Band and other members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe considered retrocession from Public Law 280. Retrocession would have given the federal government criminal law enforcement authority on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Retrocession would have required approval of the Minnesota Legislature, which did not occur.

1991: The Mille Lacs Band once again began to consider retrocession from Public Law 280. The Mille Lacs County Board unanimously agreed to support retrocession. The Minneso-

ta Department of Public Safety opposed a bill sponsored by Mille Lacs County to allow retrocession. The bill died in the Legislature, but a law was passed, Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, authorizing the Band to start a police force to enforce Minnesota law on the reservation. It was the first agreement of its kind in Minnesota and paved the way for other Bands and counties to create similar agreements. In 1991, the Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department had three officers: Monte Fronk, Jim Bankey and Lloyd Ligneel.

2007: After nine months of negotiations, the Mille Lacs Band revoked the law enforcement agreement with Mille Lacs County because the County Attorney demanded the ability to see all Tribal Police reports, not just those involving enforcement of state law. In negotiations, the County attempted to limit the Tribal Police Department's jurisdiction to trust lands, although 626.90 specifically allows jurisdiction within the 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation.

2008: In January, a new agreement was approved by the Band and County. Under the new agreement, the solicitor general would review all Tribal Police reports but was only required to forward those involving state law enforcement to the Mille Lacs County Attorney for prosecution.

June 21, 2016: With no warning and no attempt to resolve issues with the agreement, the Mille Lacs County Board, with support from the County Attorney and Sheriff, voted to revoke the law enforcement agreement, citing the following reasons:

The Band's attempt to modify Minnesota Statute, section 626.90, which establishes the authority of the Tribal

Police Department to enforce state law. "These changes were focused on allowing the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's law enforcement authority to continue whether or not a cooperative agreement existed in Mille Lacs County," the resolution states.

- The Band's ability to self-refer cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office under the Tribal Law and Order Act, which would "be a direct violation" of the law enforcement agreement.
- The Band's participation in an Intertribal Violent Offenders Task Force Joint Powers Agreement under its "inherent tribal authority," which the County said violates state law.
- The Band's alleged "exercise of law enforcement authority outside of its jurisdiction" and "failure to cooperate and coordinate with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, which has jurisdictional authority throughout all of Mille Lacs County," according to Public Law 280.

The Band has argued that none of these reasons has merit, as reported in the July *Inaajimowin*.

Mille Lacs Tribal Police officers continue to respond to calls for service on tribal lands. Band members should continue to call 911 in case of emergency, but they can also call a new direct toll-free number to request Tribal Police service directly: 888-609-5006. The Department's main phone number — 320-532-3430 — can also be used. The non-emergency call center is open 24/7.

National News Briefs

Navajo Sue EPA: A year after 3 million gallons of heavy metal sludge from the shuttered Gold King Mine gushed into a tributary of the Animas River, the Navajo Nation is suing the Environmental Protection Agency for what it sees as negligence in cleaning up the disaster. The EPA has taken responsibility for the accidental release of toxic acid mine waste — including lead and arsenic that turned the Animas River an unsightly shade of orange last August. But in the lawsuit filed Tuesday, the Navajo Nation alleges that the EPA has failed to properly remediate the disaster and compensate the thousands of farmers who rely on the San Juan River, which flows from the Animas through New Mexico and Utah, to irrigate their crops and sustain their cattle and sheep.

Incubation Legislation: This July, Democratic Party Senators introduced legislation to help launch businesses and create more jobs in Indian Country. The Native American Business Incubators Program Act will establish and fund business incubators in Indian Country to help start-up and cultivate Native American owned small businesses. This bill will provide Native Americans the tools to strengthen tribal economies and communities. It also provides the right tools and training for Native Americans to succeed.

Enbridge Fined: The U.S. Department of Justice announced a settlement of \$172 million to be paid by the Enbridge pipeline company in financial assessments. \$62 million of it will go towards civil penalties and \$110 million will go toward preventative oil spill measures. The settlement also requires the replacement of Line 3, which, alongside the Sandpiper pipeline in Minnesota, will be undergoing environmental review. The company has proposed much of the replacement to follow a path from North Dakota through northern Minnesota to Superior, Wisconsin. It will be the most expensive project in Enbridge's history. This could cause environmental and land disruptions in the proposed areas. (See page 11 for more on this story.)

Great Leader Lost: Miniconjou Lakota Chief David Beautiful Bald Eagle, Waniyetu Opi, was 97 when he passed away in the arms of his wife and surrounded by friends and family. He's led a life as a soldier in the 4th Cavalry at Fort Meade and in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, as an accomplished bronc rider under the name "Chips Warner," and as an actor staring in several motion pictures. David was also a champion Indian dancer, and has served as chairman of the Personal Policy Board, goodwill ambassador for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, chief of the Miniconjou band, and first chief of the Indigenous Native Nations. David led a long, fulfilling life remaining true to his native heritage and utilizing his leadership and peacemaking skills throughout his various positions. He is a role model and beloved leader for the Native American community.

Legislator Makes History: Peggy Flanagan, a Minnesota legislator from the White Earth Nation, was the first Native American woman to address the Democratic National Convention in July. She spoke about her concerns regarding Donald Trump's views towards American Indians. 147 American Indians present at the DNC were represented at the Native American Council, Caucus, and nearly every major speech.

Circle of Healing Conference Focuses on Culture

Brett Larson Staff Writer



Lee Obizaan Staples presented to the entire conference in the morning.

In response to the news that Mille Lacs had been hit hard by opiate addiction, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin held roundtables in all districts during the past year to gather ideas for combatting the opiate crisis in Mille Lacs Band communities.

As a next step in the process, Melanie directed her staff to plan two conferences with the theme "Anishinaabe Strong: Circle of Healing and Strength."

In June, the first conference was held in Hinckley with an emphasis on understanding the science of drug addiction and its relationship with mental illness and other factors.

On Aug. 3, the second conference was held with an emphasis on how Anishinaabe culture can help Band members find strength, hope and healing.

Melanie welcomed a large crowd to the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events Center, saying, "There may be some bad things happening in our communities, but we can take care of that. We can fix it. That's why you are here, because we want to make our communities the best that they can be."

Lee Obizaan Staples gave the invocation, followed by comments from Nazhike Awaasanang (Bradley E. Harrington), who put the conference together. Bradley said he looked at what helped him stay clean and sober after he was released from prison four years ago, and he thought of people like Mille Lacs Elders Obizaan, Amik, and Joe Nayquonabe, and Mike Sullivan, an Ojibwe language expert from Lac Courte Oreilles in Wisconsin.

He decided to bring them to speak at the conference. "That's what I wanted to do, because that's what kept me going, for my kids and my community," he said.

The morning session was devoted to a presentation from Obizaan. The first part focused on a guide to spiritual growth. He spoke about the importance of offering tobacco each day, dealing with anger, showing respect, embracing Anishinaabe identity, seeking therapy if necessary, integrating spirituality into daily life, and nurturing the Anishinaabe spirit by using the language, attending ceremonies and helping others. He said all Anishinaabe should get their Anishinaabe name as a start.

Obizaan described Anishinaabe people as living in several "camps": the traditional camp, the Chimookomaan (white person) camp, the "lost spirits" camp and the "hang around the fort" Indian camp.

"If we embrace our Anishinaabe ways, we won't end up in those other camps," he said. "This is what we were given as a people. The spirits, the manidoog, gave us this. Don't reject it, because if you try to be something you're not, you'll never have peace within. You'll always feel like something is missing."

After a break, Obizaan talked about the ceremonies Anishinaabe people practice from birth to death and beyond, and the importance of participating in those ceremonies to embrace Anishinaabe identity, find healing and direction, and contradict negative messages prevalent in society.

The afternoon was dedicated to breakout sessions led by Migizi (Mike Sullivan), Amik (Larry Smallwood), Waabishkibines (Joe Nayquonabe Sr.) and Brenda Child.

Migizi told his personal story about getting in trouble as a youth and finding direction as he learned the Ojibwe language and traditions. "I never would have been able to stay on this path without our ways," he said.

He also shared his vision of a new generation of Anishinaabe who know they are here to give to their communities, not just take. He said he hears people say the Ojibwe language is dying, but it will not die during his lifetime because he will be using it with his children and grandchildren.

Joe Nayquonabe told his story of military service, falling into addiction and then finding healing through attending ceremonies. Eventually he became a drug and alcohol counselor, and he emphasized how the 12 Steps can be aligned with Anishinaabe spirituality to promote healing. He also told a story about how he found direction after spending his first five years of sobriety as "an unhappy sober guy."

"I talked to my Elders and told them I was a lot happier when I was drinking," he said. "They told me I had to get back to my spirituality. 'You come into our dancehall, put your tobacco, bring your gift, dance to your song, bring food, help out, and then you're done.' I started digging into why I was doing this, and finally things started coming together. Things started looking up for me."

Brenda Child spoke about writing and learning some difficult facts about her people, and how alcohol abuse and family violence have affected Indian communities, including her family at Red Lake.

Amik talked about the history and importance of the 11 Big Drums at Mille Lacs. He told stories of how the women's drum came to Mille Lacs, and how the Dakota shared their drums with Mille Lacs. He said no one needs an invitation to come to a Big Drum ceremony, and he encouraged everyone to come to as many as they can this fall.

He said the main point of the ceremony is to ask for help and pray for others. "When I do my prayers on the Big Drum I don't leave anybody out," he said. "I pray for the people in hospitals, nursing homes, the incarcerated, those who are overseas fighting, the veterans, those who are out 'Walmarting', drinking, playing pool, all my we'ehs. I pray for the people that are studying and working on the language. Nobody's left out. I pray for the spirits that watch over this lake, the spirits that take care of that island. Wherever there's a drum ceremony, somebody's praying for you."









In the afternoon, three breakout sessions featured four speakers: Migizi (Mike Sullivan), Amik (Larry Smallwood), Waabishkibines (Joe Nayquonabe Sr.) and Brenda Child.

Anglers Exceed Walleye Quota; Season to Close September 6th

Minnesota anglers exceeded their 2016 Mille Lacs Lake walleye allocation in July, but Gov. Mark Dayton declared on August 9 that walleye fishing would remain open.

More than two weeks after the announcement that anglers had exceeded their quota, the state finally announced on Aug. 23 that the walleye season on Mille Lacs would end on Labor Day, Sept. 6.

The 2016 walleye season was declared catch-and-release only due to the small safe harvest levels established by population estimates. Still, since 5 to 10 percent of fish caught and released die according to Minnesota DNR studies, anglers exceeded the 28,600-pound quota by nearly 10,000 pounds before the end of August.

Mille Lacs Band DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel expressed disappointment with the governor's decision (see sidebar), as did representatives from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), which represents all eight Ojibwe bands with treaty rights in the 1837 Ceded Territory.

When the quota was reached in the summer of 2015, the state shut down walleye fishing, and the Mille Lacs Band DNR and Chief Executive, after consultation with Drumkeepers, decided to forego netting in the spring of 2016. A small spearing harvest occurred, but the Band did not reach its quota of 11,400 pounds.

Gov. Dayton responded to the 2015 shutdown by proposing an economic relief package for Mille Lacs businesses and creating a new advisory group, replacing the Mille Lacs Fishery Input Group that had been in place for years. He also proposed a new fisheries building for Mille Lacs and recommended staff changes at the DNR fisheries office in Aitkin.

The day before the state announced that anglers had exceeded the quota, Susan said the state had presented a plan that would give the state an open-ended quota while leaving

the Bands at their quota.

"I said no," said Susan. "The bands have given up quite a bit. We've given up our netting for this year, and the Wisconsin bands haven't been over for a couple years. The bands are all very firm about the state staying under their quota."

Minnesota anglers have exceeded their allocation several times since the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed Ojibwe hunting and fishing rights in 1999.

Although it is widely assumed that the bands can claim up to 50 percent of the harvest, the state has enjoyed larger allocations and harvests than the tribes every year.

Local businesses and anglers have lobbied for less restrictive regulations and the largest possible allocations, arguing that the walleye population is healthier than the DNR's scientific surveys indicate.

In 2013, the Minnesota DNR determined that the walleye population was at a historic low, based on fall gillnet surveys. Anglers were left with shrinking harvest slots and bag limits in 2014 and 2015.

The small slot limits have meant that anglers have caughtand-released thousands of fish in pursuit of the elusive slot fish, resulting in high levels of "hooking mortality," which is the scientific term for the death of released fish.

This year, for the first time, the Minnesota DNR declared a catch-and-release only season for state anglers. Most assumed that if the state hit its quota, targeting of walleye would be outlawed, although some walleyes would still be caught by anglers pursuing northerns, bass, muskies or other species.

The governor's decision to keep the season open not only hurts the state/tribal relationship but could potentially result in federal court intervention to stop state anglers from further damaging the walleye fishery.

Executive Director Responds to State

In response to the governor's decision, Susan Klapel, Executive Director of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, released the following statement:

"The Mille Lacs Band and the other tribes with treaty rights on Mille Lacs Lake worked in good faith with the State of Minnesota to determine a safe harvest limit for walleye this year. The process was driven by science and guided by the understanding that we must, above all, protect the future vibrancy of the fishery. We listened to our fisheries' biologists and experts, as well as the state's. We consulted with the other tribes, and with our Elders. The result was an agreement by all parties to set a restrictive limit on walleye this year — a limit the lake needs in order to give her time to recover.

"The walleye limit was allocated between the tribes and the state — with the state getting the majority share. Harvest opportunities for Band members were dramatically restricted to stay below our share and protect the lake. The state adopted a catch-and-release only policy but refused to prohibit live bait or take other measures to further reduce walleye mortalities in its fishery.

"The state announced today that it has exceeded its share of the walleye limit by almost 10,000 pounds, and that it intends to continue its fishery without change. It defended this decision on the grounds that its fishery has had only a small impact on the 2013 year class, but did not address its impact on other year classes or the female spawning biomass as a whole. We have not seen the data the state used to assess impacts on the 2013 year class, but our biologists believe the state's decision to exceed its share of the agreed safe harvestable limit will prolong and could negatively impact

the ability to rebuild the Mille Lacs walleye population in the future.

"As they have done every year, the tribes honored their commitment to stay within their share of the safe harvest limit to protect the lake for generations to come. We are deeply disappointed to learn the state will not honor its commitment to do the same."

"As they have done every year, the tribes honored their commitment to stay within their share of the safe harvest limit to protect the lake for generations to come. We are deeply disappointed to learn the state will not honor its commitment to do the same."

— Susan Klapel

State & Local News Briefs

Good Life in Minneapolis: The Red Lake Band has purchased a small property in Minneapolis for \$1.73 million to develop an affordable housing project. The tribe plans to demolish the Amble Hardware building and turn it into a mixed-use complex with about 115 units of affordable housing It will also open up an embassy in Minneapolis and a health care clinic to serve some of the 2,100 Red Lake Band members who live in the Twin Cities area. The project will be called Mino-bimaadiziwin, Ojibwe for "living the good life."

Homicide Research: Researchers at the Hennepin Country medical examiner's office are getting a rare look this summer at handwritten death records from the early 1900s as they track ancient homicides for the first time. This year is the second for a project that has students looking through data from the past 100 years to add previous suspicious deaths and homicides to the electronic records. This is the first project that will help analyze and track homicide trends in Minnesota. This research will help policymakers better understand how and why homicides happen, and what things might be done to prevent them. Students are specifically looking into American Indian deaths from 1850 to 1930 to try to find trends in the reason for homicide.

Resort Relief: The Mille Lacs County Board approved a resolution to allow businesses around Mille Lacs Lake to apply for part of a \$3.6 million economic-relief package coming as part of an appropriations act approved in the 2016 legislative session. The relief package is intended for businesses surrounding the lake that have suffered from the lack of walleye fishing. The dollars will be available in the 2017 fiscal year, and are a one-time appropriation.

Rice Protections: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has revised the rules to better protect wild rice from sulfate pollution. The refinement plan will identify a protective sulfate concentration, and a new definition of wild rice water. The MPCA consulted with tribal representatives and state legislators on the issues, and is open to public comment until September 6. This new plan is a step forward in helping protect wild rice plants which are a crucial part of Native American livelihood.

Rez Road Author Passes: Ojibwe writer, poet, and performer Jim Northrup has passed away at age 73. Before his passing, he talked with MPR about his life, his cancer, and being a member of the Ojibwe tribe. Prior to documenting modern Native American life, Northrup served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. He said he has lived a full life and is confident of his next journey.

Anglers Unhappy: After tribal leaders expressed significant concerns about the State of Minnesota's decision to exceed its safe harvest allocation of walleye on Mille Lacs Lake, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced that the lake would close to anglers September 6th. To date, anglers exceeded their quota by nearly 20,000 pounds. Despite the huge overage, resort owners and members of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee complained bitterly when they were informed of the decision. They said it would negatively impact their businesses. Tribal biologists continue to study data gathered on the walleye population to assess what possible damage to the future population may have been caused by the excess harvest by State anglers.

Band Princess Looks Back on Her Year, Offers Advice

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

For Sierra Edwards one of the best parts of being the Mille Lacs Band Princess has been becoming more connected to the community.

Sierra, who is a Band member, didn't grow up on the reservation and lives in Brainerd. Her trips to District I and other districts would be to attend funerals, powwows, youth gatherings and political events with her dad, Jamie Edwards, who is the Band's Government Affairs Director.

But since being named the Band's Princess last August during the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow, Sierra has been able to build stronger relationships with other Band members and the Band community.

"The year has gone by really fast," said Sierra, a 17-yearold senior at Brainerd Senior High School. "I made new friends, met a lot of people and developed stronger bonds."

She has represented the Band by dancing at 16 different powwows over the past year — including the Denver March Powwow and the Gathering of Nations Powwow in April.

Band member Tony Pike and Ramona Bird invited Sierra to travel with them to Albuquerque for Gathering of Nations and there she was able to dance with thousands of others during the event.

"I was surprised Tony asked, but it made me really excited because I always wanted to attend the Gathering of Nations," said Sierra, whose Indian name is "Ikwe."

For the past year, Sierra has had to keep a detailed calendar of events coming up and then rely on her dad and her mom, Red Lake Band member Susan Beaulieu, to help her make them happen.

"My advice for the incoming Band royalty is to find a way to get things on their calendars and then find a way to make it a priority," she said.

Sierra said her journey to royalty began when someone suggested she run when she attended the National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference when it was held in

St. Paul. She hadn't thought about it before then, but decided to pursue it.

"The first thing I did was talk to Herb and Patty Sam, and then they helped me along the way.

"My aunt Anne Beaulieu taught me how to rope bead a peyote stick because you have to learn four things about the culture to run. Herb taught me Ojibwe so I could give my introduction speech.

"Patty taught me how to prepare meals for ceremonies, and then I made a dish for ceremony — it was venison, blueberries, wild rice, corn and rolls."

She prepared the food for the ceremony to bless her regalia and for it to be smudged. She gave the rest away because it had to be eaten by sundown, according to Herb and Patty.

Sierra, who has danced contemporary jingle dress and fancy shawl, said she prefers the old-style jingle dress dancing.

"I really like the old traditional jingle dress dance," she said. "My family said I looked so comfortable and I was in my element when I dance that style...it fits me.

"I can't imagine any other style long-term, and I think I will probably dance traditional jingle dress the rest of my life."

When she was crowned last year, Sierra was both honored and surprised.

"I felt like an outsider, and I hadn't been to the Mille Lacs Powwow in a while, but winning made me feel more connected," she said. "I felt confident in my relationship and connection to the Band."

Other advice that Sierra would like to offer future royalty members is to be prepared. When it's time to go into the arena to dance or to represent the Band — be on time and be ready.

"People are really looking to you, so it's important that you represent the Band in a good way."

She also encourages those who want to run for royal-ty to pursue the opportunity — even if they don't live on the reservation.

"It can be more challenging if you don't live on the reservation, but it helps connect you and people are willing to help you."

At the 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Sierra danced her last dance as the reigning princess but will continue to proudly represent the Band anywhere she goes.

"I love to dance, and I love to represent. This is what makes me happy, and I enjoy it."





Sierra danced at many local powwows, including the Honor Our Elders Powwow and the Grand Celebration Powwow in June and the Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow in District II in July. She was a mentor to young dancers like Arianna Sam.



Outgoing Princess Ends Reign with Gratitude

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Columnist

Sierra Edwards, MLB Sr. Princess from August 2015 – August 2016, is a role model. Those of us fortunate enough to have witnessed her royal demonstrations throughout her reign were left with a feeling of awe. Of course we heard all about her activities from here to Gathering. But I want to talk about what happened on August 21st, 2016. After crowning the new Sr. Princess, Shianna Smallwood, Sierra was on the verge of tears — tears of success, joy and reflection.

But it is what happened after the crowning which shows Princess Edwards' true character. She held a special for Teen Girls Old Style Jingle, a style she holds in high regard. "I've been dancing it for a while now. It just feels natural to me!" she beamed. "I dance it, love it and think it represents the band well!" Over 25 girls took part in the special, three of whom were picked to receive a gift from Sierra herself.

As if this weren't enough — a special put on by a conceding royalty — Sierra personally went around to those who helped her throughout the year, and it was a large number she felt compelled to express her gratitude to. "I just wanted to do something special for the people who have helped me sooooo'much this past year." She humbly stated, "I could never repay them, but I thought acknowledging their help would be a start! I'm not really sure — it was just kind of something I planned on doing right from the start!"

So to say that Sierra's reign is over would be fallacious. Character like that does not sit idle. Her servant leadership sounds off when asked about giving a gift to Ramona Bird: "Ramona has been amazing, and I'm hoping she heals up fast!"

I believe that this is just the beginning of a long series of successes and royal demonstrations put on by this young woman. It is young leaders like Sierra we are proud to have in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, who spread honor amongst others and give us all something to be proud about. Mii iw minik mazinaabikiwebinigeyaan.



Education Commissioner Ed Minnema Sets High Goals for Staff and Students

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

The list of things that Ed Minnema wants to accomplish during his tenure as the Band's Commissioner of Education is impressive. But the long list is not surprising coming from a guy who has been an educator for most of his career.

Over the years Ed has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal and college professor. He's had some other jobs outside of education, but they never quite fit him like the education jobs did.

Ed was sworn in as the Commissioner in July but got his first job with the Band in 1996 as a music teacher. He worked with Band Elder Larry Matrious and they taught Ojibwe language through music at Nay Ah Shing. Prior to that Ed, worked as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools system for four years.

"Teaching was a calling and I thought I could make an impact through music," he said.

When the opportunity arose for him to leave Chicago and come to work for the Band he decided it was the right move to make.

Little did he know that the move would be life changing and that he would spend a big part of his life immersed in the Band and its culture. He met his wife Cheryl Benjamin Minnema and the couple had two sons, Sean and Ethan. They have since divorced, but remain good friends.

He learned about the culture and traditions of the Anishinaabe and learned Ojiwbe though his relationship with Cheryl's family, including her mom, Mille "Zhaawan" Benjamin and from Larry, his first teacher. He also learned from other Elders like Norman Clark and Ole Nickaboine.

"There were many teachers who cared enough to teach me all they could," Ed said, adding that he's a "low-to-moderate level" speaker.

One of the things Ed would like to see more of is the participation of Elders at the Band schools. When he worked there as a teacher there were many more Elders involved than there are today. The students, he said, could benefit greatly from the wisdom of the Elders.

"We want the Elders to feel welcome...that Nay Ah Shing is a place for them where they are respected and valued."

Some of the other things Ed hopes to accomplish are increasing teacher support, by increasing staffing and student support through language, culture and relevant curriculum. His third goal is community ownership – he wants the community

to be vested stakeholders in all that happens at Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove Leadership Academy.

"The staff has been stretched and so far we've hired 20 people for the schools, but we need to hire more for areas like special education and mental health."

He has instituted professional learning communities, which are designed to allow staff time to meet and collaborate on data and curriculum. Those communities meet every other Friday. Ed has said that language and culture continue to be a priority and that includes cultural activities.

"We're using the Rutledge Immersion Grounds and will hire five Ojibwe language trainees to work with Larry 'Amik' Smallwood," he said. "They will be integrated into the schools as language teachers and will take courses to get their certification in education through Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College."

Ed wants to foster a climate of respect and appreciation for the teachers. And he would like to see more support for the students through language and cultural activities.

"To create meaning and relevance of the curriculum they first have to understand who they are as Anishinaabe people."

The schools will also focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, which is also known as STEAM. The curriculum is being updated because it's old and it's not culturally sensitive, he said.

There needs to be more community engagement at the schools because the schools were created by the community and for the community. Those things can happen though volunteering, a vision and a strategic plan, Ed said.

"We are holding community forums throughout the year to engage the community and hear their vision for the schools," said Ed, adding that one forum has been held so far (see p13).

Other plans include having Band Elder Joe Nayquonabe, Sr. work with teachers on language and culture on a weekly basis. There will also be an upgrade to the facilities, which includes new tiles, paint, sidewalks and repairs to Nay Ah Shing.

Another change is that Pine Grove Leadership Academy has a new director, Karrie McCurdy, who moved to the role from the District III Head Start Director's spot.

Ed says he plans to do an assessment to see what the schools needs to help students and staff to be more successful. LeAnn Benjamin has been hired to serve as the Ojibwe Lan-

guage Coordinator for both schools.

"I have very high expectations of myself so I have high expectations for the administrators, teachers and the staff. I know those expectations will flow to the students," Ed said.

He believes in servant leadership and that students should be at the top — schools and staff should be student-centered.

"My goal is to have the best tribal school in the nation," he said. "In Indian education the expectations are not high enough and I want that to change.

"Student-centered curriculum matters and it needs to be relevant," he added. "They need teachers to act as guides. There needs to be an integrated approach to curriculum and hands-on activities to accompany the curriculum. Many students benefit greatly from hands-on learning."

Ed said he expects students to blossom and expects that they will meet state standards. Through their work, students will develop ideas about how science and culture intersect, will be exposed to real-life situations like the ecosystem. The focus on STEAM, along with culture and language, will bridge their understanding of what they are learning, he added.

This year the schools will pilot a program using Chrome Books and iPods as they focus on technology.

"We will teach computer coding and our STEAM lab uses robotics," as part of the increased use of technology, he said.

Ed says the staff at the schools are committed and highly qualified and that they will have a greater emphasis on building strong relationships with the students and their families.

He is looking forward to working to grow and strengthen Pine Grove and says the community commitment for that school is strong.

"When they leave our schools, I want students to be culturally fluent and academically-prepared for tech school, tribal college or a four-year university," Ed said.

Ed grew up in Wisconsin and Illinois — graduating from a high school in the suburbs about an hour outside of Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois — Urbana Champaign with a Bachelor of Music degree in music performance in 1992. He later got his Master of Arts in Education from St. Mary's in 2001 and Doctorate of Education in education policy and administration from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities in 2007

During his expansive career he worked as an assistant principal in Duluth, a principal at St. Croix Camp School and has worked for the Band's Corporate Commission as the Executive Director in education and performance. He was an assistant professor in the Master of Tribal Administration and Governance at the University of Minnesota Duluth for four years before returning to the Band.







Ed Minnema was sworn in July 25 as Commissioner of Education. Tribal Court Judge Brenda Moose conducted the ceremony, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin introduced Ed to a full house gathered in the Band Assembly chambers. Ed said he felt honored and humbled by the appointment. He thanked his teachers, including Zhaawan, Jim and Norman Clark, Larry Matrious and Ole Nickaboine. "They are still with us, and I wear this medallion in their honor," said Ed. "I also want to thank the Chief and Band Assembly for putting their confidence in me and the Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove staff. We are determined to make Nay Ah Shing the best tribal school in the nation."

50th Annual Traditional Powwow

Chad Germann and Toya Stewart Downey Photographers

Hundreds attended the Mille Lacs Traditional Powwow at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I August 19-21. Miigwech to all who dedicated their time and effort to make the powwow a success. For more powwow photos, see pages 14-16.























Commissioner Provides Community Development Update

The summer of 2016 has been a busy one for the Community Development Department, as staff and contractors have juggled many projects in various stages of completion.

Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin provided a summary of those projects. "Miigwech to everyone on our Community Development staff," said Percy. "Everyone's working hard as we try to meet the needs of our Band members and plan for the future."

In District I, infrastructure work at the Sher Property is nearing completion, and construction at some of the 57 home sites will be in full swing next year. Planning is also underway for a new community center and Health and Human Services building on the site, which will include a medical clinic. The HHS

building will house all staff who now work in three different buildings around the district. The existing Ne-la-Shing Clinic and District I Community Center will be repurposed once the new buildings are complete.

In District II, the new powwow grounds and facilities were built in time for this summer's Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow. Percy was appreciative of the District II Powwow Committee for taking a lead role in design of the facilities. A few additions and changes will be made to complete the project before next summer's powwow. Planning is also underway for a new District II Clinic

In District III, work on a new Community Recreation Center will begin in early September. The new center, which will be

built south of Grand Casino Hinckley, will include a gymnasium, an elevated walking track, classrooms, a meeting room, a full kitchen, a spacious lobby and an outdoor splash pad.

Construction is also continuing in the Zhingwaak development east of the casino. Phase 3 infrastructure is nearing completion, and most of the homes in Phase 2 are finished. Phase 3 will include 37 to 39 home sites.

A new building at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin Immersion Grounds in Rutledge is also nearly finished. The building will include offices, meeting space, dormitories and restrooms.

New homes and remodeling projects are continuing in all three districts. See the project list that accompanies this story for details.

Community Development Master Project List

District I Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
Commercial — New	
#11007: New DI Clinic Design	15%
#11009: Traditional Grounds Building: Well House	0%
#11014: New Roads Garage Design #11015: New Higher Education Facility	95% 0%
#11016: DI Roads Garage Construction	50%
#12069: New DI Community Center Planning	15%
Commercial — Remodel	
#12065: Budget Host Remodel	96%
#12073: DI Comm. Ctr. Exterior Door	0%
#12075: DI Powwow Electrical Upgrades	0%
Residential — New	
#13055: 47165 Partridge Pass Demo & Replace	0%
#13057: Lot 117 PML, Earle Brown Dr. Poplar Rental	0%
#13058: Lot 324 PML, Poplar w/o Garage Rental	0%
Residential — Remodel	000/
#14089: 10944 State Hwy. 27	98%
#14096: 43422 Mosey Drive	50% 0%
#14099: 6381 Sail Away, Garrison #14100: 17231 Gabeshi Ct., Onamia	0% 0%
#14100: 17231 Gabesii Ct., Orlanna #14109: 45447 US Hwy 169 Septic Replace	0% 0%
#14111: 15979 Nay Ah Shing Drive	0%
#14112: 16052 Hwy 27	98%
#14113: 45881 US Hwy 169	20%
Infrastructure/PublicWorks	
#15000: Sher Property Engineering	90%
#15001: Sher Property Development Construction	75%
#15003: Vineland Safe Roads to School Sidewalks	5%

District II Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
Commercial — New	
#21000: DII Powwow Arena Design	95%
#21002: DII Powwow Arena Construction #21003: New DII Satellite Clinic Design	95% 50%
Commercial — Remodel	
#22012: East Lake Ceremonial Building Water Softener #22016: Galloway Old College Demolition	95% 0%
Residential — New	
#23047: 1930 Moose Dr. Butternut Elder	98%
#23048: 1920 Moose Dr. Walnut Rental	98%
#23056: 2240 Moose Dr. Butternut Elder	98%
#23046: 2500 Wahbegon Dr. Poplar	0%
#23055: 2220 Moose Dr. Alder	0%
#23058: 1904 Moose Dr. Poplar Rental	20%
#23059: 1900 Moose Drive Butternut Rental	8%
#23060: 2640 Chiminising Dr. Blue Spruce Elder #23053: 37959 207th Place Butternut Rental	0% 0%
#23054: 35956 State Hwy 65	0%
Residential — Remodel	0,0
#24022: 21842 Goshawk	0%
#24030: 20453 465th Lane	98%
#24023: 90 N. Main St. McGregor	0%
#24041: 34889 200th Ave. Elder Garage	15%
#24044: 2545 Naawaakwaa St.	10%

District III Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
Commercial — New	
#31001: Rutledge Grounds Facility #31002: New Hinckley Community Center Planning #31003: New Hinckley Community Center Construction	70% 90% 0%
Commercial — Remodel	
#32018: Community Center Flagpoles	50%
Residential — New	
#33044: Zhingwaak Playground and Park	92%
#33067: 2490 Oshki Odena Street (Alder Rental)	95%
#33070: 2428 Oshki Odena Street (Alder Rental)	95%
#33068: 1290 Oshki Odena Placa (Tamarack walkout)	95%
#33069: 1285 Oski Odena Place (Blue Spruce Elder)	90%
#33074: 2399 Zhingob Ave. Blue Spruce Rental	15%
#33075: 2461 Zhingob Ave. Alder	5%
#33076: 2614 Oshki Odena St. Alder	10%
#33077: 2540 Oshki Odena St. Blue Spruce	20%
#33078: 58285 Ginew Trail HUD Rental Poplar	0% 0%
#33079: 58112 Ginew Trail HUD Rental Poplar #33080: 58491 Makwa Ct. Blue Spruce Elder	0%
#33081: 58480 Makwa Ct. Blue Spruce Elder	0%
#33082: 2499 Zhingob Ave. Poplar Rental	0%
#33083: 2542 Zhingob Ave. Butternut Rental	0%
#33084: 2619 Zhingob Place Blue Spruce Rental	0%
#33085: 1342 Zhingob Place Blue Spruce Rental	0%
Residential — Remodel	
#34078: 30952 Eagle Feather Dr. (fire rehab)	0%
#34087: 46118 Grace Lake Rd.	0%
#34089: 62264 Grouse Trail	0%
Infrastructure/PublicWorks	
#35000: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Engineering	95%
#35001: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Construction	98%
#35002: Evergreen Drive Extension Engineering	95%
#35003: Evergreen Ct. Extension Construction	85%

Off Reservation Projects

Project Residential — Remodel	% Complete
#44041: 11900 Wedgewood Dr. Coon Rapids #44045: 19439 120th Ave. Milaca #44047: 222 S. 57th Ave. W. Duluth	0% 0% 0%
All Districts/Misc. Projects #50001: All Districts Bathroom Renovations #50003: HI Driveway Paving	80% 85%



The building at the Anishinaabe Izhitwaawin immersion grounds in Rutledge is nearly complete.

A groundbreaking for the new Hinckley Community Center south of the casino was scheduled for August 30 at 2 p.m., after this issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin went to press. See next month's issue for coverage.

Sandpiper in Question After Enbridge Invests in Alternative Pipeline

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The future of the proposed Sandpiper pipeline is in question after Enbridge Inc. invested in an alternative pipeline to transport Bakken oil to the Gulf of Mexico. Enbridge partner Marathon Petroleum is also investing in the Bakken Pipeline System and has said it will pull out of the Sandpiper project.

Enbridge was seeking permission from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to build the Sandpiper pipeline in a new corridor that would pass through watersheds in District II, near the Minisinaakwaang, Sandy Lake and Minnewawa communities. Those watersheds contain wild rice beds that have

supported those communities for generations.

The pipeline was designed to bring oil to a Marathon facility in Superior, Wisconsin., where it would be processed and shipped to the Gulf.

The new Enbridge investment in the Dakota Access pipeline would bring the oil from North Dakota's Bakken formation through South Dakota to Illinois and the Gulf, bypassing Minnesota. Indian communities in the Dakotas are also protesting the new pipeline system.

Mille Lacs DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel said Band members' opposition to the pipeline had an impact. "I think a lot of the pressure that came from the bands was a hindrance to them that made them not want to do it," said Susan. She cited the tribal public hearing held in June of 2015, which was called by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin after the PUC failed to hold any hearings on tribal lands.

Many District II Band members, employees and allies spoke at that hearing and at others throughout the corridor.

Susan also gave credit to Honor the Earth and Friends of the Headwaters, who won a court battle saying the PUC had erred by granting the project a Certificate of Need before an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared. A Minnesota judge ruled that the PUC's action violated the Minnesota Environmental Protection Act.

That decision pushed the start date of the project back indefinitely, which may have led to Enbridge finding an alternative.

New public hearings were required, and Band members and employees once again testified on May 11 of this year in opposition to the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines.

It remains to be seen how the new decision will affect Enbridge's plan for Line 3, an existing pipeline that Enbridge wanted to re-route through the new Sandpiper corridor.

After a massive oil spill from an Enbridge pipeline near Kalamazoo, MI, a judge ruled that Enbridge needed to fix or repair its pipeline system, which includes Line 3.

Line 3 currently follows Highway 2 through northern Minnesota, but rather than remove and fix the old line, Enbridge applied for a permit to put a new line alongside Sandpiper and abandon the old one.

Susan said the Band will fight a re-route of Line 3 through the proposed Sandpiper corridor.

District I Youth Attend GLIFWC Camp

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Camp Onji-Akiing, "From the Earth," is a joint effort of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the U.S. Forest Service to give Native youth knowledge of natural resources and development of leadership skills.

District I cousins Kelia Armstrong and Cyrell Boyd attended the camp together in July, and they enjoyed it so much they hope to return next year.

The camp, which is in its eighth year, was held at Camp Nesbit near Sidnaw, MI, in the Upper Peninsula. The 50 kids were divided up into four "clans," each with a color from the medicine wheel: yellow (mustard), red (ketchup), white (salt) and black (pepper).

Kelia was in the Great Eagles and Cyrell in the Crazy Crows. Each clan had its own cabin, which campers had to keep clean and orderly. Kelia was in the Bobcat cabin and Cyrell in the Loon.

They also helped with meal preparation and cleanup. "We had to do a prayer before we ate," said Kelia. "On the last night I got to do the prayer."

Each day began with a quarter-mile "Spirit Run," after which campers would put out tobacco. Next came breakfast,

followed by a variety of activities, from science education to crafts like hand-drum making to career exploration. (Kelia is thinking about becoming a lawyer, and Cyrell wants to be a wildland fire fighter.)

After lunch were more activites: a high ropes course, a low ropes course, warrior games and circle time, where kids were taught about respect and kindness. "There were no fights," said Cyrell. "Everyone in my cabin was my friend."

"I met some cool friends and counselors," said Kelia.

The camp's location on Nesbit Lake allows for water sports, boating, swimming and fishing. Cyrell loved the fishing, and both kids learned what to do if their canoe tips. Campers are given a swimming test to determine if they can swim without a life preserver.

After supper there was a campfire with singing and drumming, and then journaling before bed. Cyrell said, "We had to say how fun our day was, how fun the Spirit Run was, how good the warrior games were, the high ropes, fishing. And how fun it was to make a drum stick."

The highlight for Kelia was playing the warrior games, where kids had to steal each other's bandannas, and the other

teams' flags. For Cyrell it was the zipline and walking the high ropes, which were strung between tall trees. (Don't worry — There were two safety cables attached to each camper.)

Joseph Benjamin, son of Band member John Benjamin, has



Kelia Armstrong and Cyrell Boyd attended Onji-Akiing (From the Earth) camp July 18-22 in MI.

attended the camp three years in a row. Experienced campers have the opportunity to become junior counselors at Camp Onji-Akiing.

Kelia's mom, Rachel Shaugobay, was impressed with how well the camp was run and how safe it was. "It looked like a little village," she said. "Kids, adults, and counselors were all walking around together. It was like a little beehive."

Parents were invited to eat with the campers and staff when they dropped kids off and picked them up, or to drop by any time and check on their kids.

Ogechie Project Pays Off in Manoomin

Brett Larson Staff Writer

A project over a decade in the making has helped to right a 60-year wrong by bringing manoomin — wild rice — back to Lake Ogechie.

Wildlife Biologist Kelly Applegate said the rice crop is looking good but may need some time to fully recover. "We are thinking the rice needs another year of good seed drop to really create a lush bed of rice," said Kelly.

In 1954, against the wishes of Mille Lacs Band leaders, a dam was built in what is now Kathio State Park, raising the level of Ogechie by three feet and all but destroying the rice beds. The Buck Moore Dam, named for Hugh "Buck" Moore, whose family homesteaded in the area, was built to allay fears of anglers and resorters that Mille Lacs Lake was losing too much water.

In fact, the dam did little to maintain the lake level, but it did deplete the rice, which had already been knocked back by an earthen dam at the site and a series of dams that were built to float logs down the Rum River to mills in Milaca and beyond.

In the early 2000s the Band and State started looking into

the removal of the dam, but it took more than a decade for the plan to come to fruition.

One model for the project was Lake Onamia, where a similar dam was removed in the late 1990s to lower the lake level. The rice came in thick and healthy, providing food for area residents as well as waterfowl.

A 2004 article in the Brainerd Dispatch said the rice beds in Lake Ogechie had dwindled to less than an acre. That year the Bureau of Indian Affairs approved \$40,000 for a feasibility study to determine how removal of the dam would impact rice fish, waterfowl and the level of Mille Lacs.

In 2010 the Band and the Minnesota DNR signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to work together on the project.

Planning continued, and finally, in 2015, with funding secured by the Band, a new control structure was built at the Mille Lacs outlet and the dam was removed from the outlet of Ogechie.

This summer, the seeds that lay dormant in the lake bed

sprouted, and the rice came back. It has yet to be seen how much rice will mature, but Kelly Applegate is expecting a limited harvest this year.

"Culturally, we as Anishinaabe realize that harvesting — even when the resource is in a low or challenged state — is an important way to show appreciation to the Creator for the resource," Kelly said. "It's believed that if we don't use the resource, it will be taken away. So in that context, we are thinking of a small ceremonial type harvest this summer."

In the meantime, Band members started harvesting rice in August at other traditional sites around the region. According to Kelly, Mallard Lake was looking good, and the backwaters of Big Sandy had an abundant crop. Lake Onamia was patchy, but rice could be found. Unfortunately, the rice on Dean Lake was experiencing stem rot.

Thanks to the hard work of Band members and employees, Lake Ogechie will provide ricers with yet another opportunity to learn and practice their traditions by harvesting manoomin close to home.

Mikwendaagoziwag — Sandy Lake Tragedy Remembered

Photos courtesy of Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Each summer, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) hosts the Mikwendaagoziwag memorial ceremony on the shores and waters of Sandy Lake to remember the 400 men, women and children who passed away in the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850.

A monument at Sandy Lake describes the event as follows: "The tragedy unfolded when U.S. government officials attempted to illegally relocate a number of Ojibwe Bands from their homes in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to northern Minnesota. In late autumn of 1850, thousands of Ojibwes had assembled at Sandy Lake for their annual treaty annuity payments. As the Ojibwe waited nearly six weeks for the payments, they suffered from illness, hunger and exposure. Many died from dysentery and measles. The promised annuities were never fully paid, and after the last of the meager provisions were distributed on December 2, the Ojibwe began an arduous journey home. Harsh winter conditions had already set in, and many more died along the way."

The memorial event begins with a pipe ceremony and canoe crossing of Sandy Lake beginning at Savanna State Park Boat Landing, followed by prayers, songs, speeches and a feast at the Mikwendaagoziwag monument at the Army Corps of Engineers recreation area.











Members of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota Ojibwe bands met at Sandy Lake on July 27 to remember the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

Bradley E. Harrington Nazhike Awaasanang

Manoominikewi-ikidowinan (Ricing words)

Aaniin anishinaabedog, Ricing Season is upon us! When it comes to Ojibwe Language, a really efficient way to learn it is to use it. When we come across times when phrases become repetitive, we can use them as opportunities to try various ways of saying things. As with Ojibwe, the prefixes and suffixes make the word work in certain ways which can then be changed to mean different things. The differences become apparent when you attach other people to the word. Usually Ni=Me and Gi=You.

Ojibwe	English
Jiimaan	Canoe
Giinitam boozin jiimaaning	You get in the canoe first.
Boozidaa jiimaaning	Let's get in the canoe.
Bawa'iganaakoog	Knockers
Gidoozhiitaa ina ji-bawa'aman	Are you ready to knock?
Gaandakii'ige	S/he poles a canoe/boat.
Ninga-gaandakii'ige noongom	I will pole the canoe today.
Akeyaa	In the certain direction.
O'ow keyaa	This way.
l'iw keyaa	That way.
Izhi-gwayak izhaadaa	Let's go straight forward.
Anwebidaa	Let's rest.
Niibowaa manoomin sa go!!	That's a lot of Manoomin!!
Aaniish minik manoomin gaa-pawa'aman**	

*Word list: Giinitam- Gii(you)nitam(turn), Boozin- Boozi(S/he gets in)n(you), Gidoozhiitaa- Gid(you) Ozhiitaa(S/he is ready), Ina- yes or no question marker, Aaniish minik- how much **When using a form of Gii, Gaa, Wii, Waa the first consonant will change to its non-audible counterpart. (B->P, D->T, J->CH, G->K, Z->S, Zh->Sh)



Joe Nayquonabe led the grand entry at the District I Powwow carrying the Art Gahbow staff.

New Commissioner Seeks Input on Nay Ah Shing, Pine Grove

Brett Larson Staff Writer

A small but enthusiastic group of community members met with Education Commissioner Ed Minnema Aug. 9 for dinner and a discussion of community members' vision for the schools.

"These are community schools," Ed said, "and we're here to listen to the community." He said input from community members would be used to inform the Band's overall education plan.

The meeting took place at both Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag in District I and Pine Grove in District III. Joyce Shingobe, Executive Director of the Education Department, was on hand at Pine Grove, and the two sites communicated through Interactive TV.

After dinner, the meeting began with introductions of those in attendance — primarily school employees and parents.

Next, updates on the schools were given by Ed, Joyce and Upper School Principal Noah Johnson.

Ed told the group that the Band Assembly had made a major decision to invest a quarter million dollars in Nay Ah Shing. "The overall facelift was a priority, and the Band Assembly really stepped up," Ed said.

He also said the schools had been understaffed, which had caused disruptions, but that the schools are almost fully staffed for this fall.

Ed also told the group about a new "student-driven" curriculum that would allow for more hands-on, inquiry-based, collaborative learning, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM), along with Ojibwe language and culture.

A new "Choices" curriculum will teach students about sexuality, drugs and alcohol, and early pregnancy.

Ed said students would recognize the changes immediately.

"Come fall the kids are going to realize, 'Hey, there's something different going on here.'"

Noah talked about the new art room and life skills classroom in the middle school wing. The art room will include a kiln, and the life skills room will have a stove, washer/dryer and refrigerator. He said on-the-job training opportunities were a success last year and will continue this year.

Joyce gave an update on improvements to the language and culture curriculum. She also talked about the new teacher training program available to Band members through Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College (see story below). Joyce also gave credit to Principal Jane Harstad, who recently resigned, for many positive changes at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag and Pine Grove.

Gregg Rutter, who is the Gifted and Talented coordinator at Nay Ah Shing, and Jeanene Gross, who teaches art, gave a presentation on their trip to Purdue this summer with 10 students from Nay Ah Shing and other schools.

Gregg and Jeanene said the Purdue camp is a model of student-centered learning that they hope to imitate at Nay Ah Shing. The program focuses on problem-solving, critical thinking and inquiry-based learning. Students are empowered to seek answers to their own questions, with teachers serving as a "guide on the side."

Ed said there was a "spark" in their presentation that can be applied to the Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove communities. "That same type of spark is also what we're striving for in our language and culture program," he said.

The meeting concluded with small-group brainstorming, followed by reports back to the large group. Participants

were asked to come up with things Nay Ah Shing should stop, start and continue to improve service to students and the community. Another community forum on education will be scheduled in late fall. See the Mille Lacs Band Facebook page, millelacsband.com, and future issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for more information





Nay Ah Shing teachers Gregg Rutter and Jeanene Gross brought 10 students to Purdue this summer for an educational camp focusing on STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Back row: Sage Boyd, Jeanene Gross, Ronni Jourdain, Dajatay Barnes, Mia Sam, Morgan Boyd. Front row: Louis Whitman, Molly Saboo, Bella Nayquonabe, Chase Sam, Danielle Hughes.

Fond du Lac Revitalizes Teacher Training Program

Tom Urbanski Guest Writer

The redevelopment of the American and Indigenous Elementary Education Program at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) will become a reality next fall. The program will take an innovative approach to teacher training and is designed to prepare students to be future elementary school teachers.

"Our American and Indigenous Elementary Education Program will prepare all students, but specifically Native American students, within a teacher preparation system emphasizing cultural approaches to educating future teachers," says Sara Montgomery, FDLTCC's program coordinator. "Faculty and staff will teach students through a cultural responsive education approach with an emphasis on an Indigenous science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum."

To better meet the educational needs of Minnesota's American Indian students, the state's legislature originally granted the college permission in 1995 to offer a bachelor's degree

in elementary education. The college is the only two-year higher education institution in Minnesota that is able to offer such a four-year degree program.

"Through a unique 2+2 agreement with Winona State University, students will complete the upper division course requirements and practical teaching portions of the bachelor's degree program," Montgomery explains. "We plan to follow this collaborative model for two years, and then ultimately transition the entire four-year program to reside at FDLTCC."

Coursework within the American and Indigenous Elementary Education Program focuses on leadership, community innovation, and building connections to tribal nations. A key component includes preparing students for the Minnesota Board of Teaching exams and licensure, as well as promoting an understanding of students' individual cultural values and the cultural values of others.

FDLTCC's program will deliver culturally relevant pedagogy to aspiring teachers in an effort to enhance their employment possibilities. At the same time, the program aims to use transformative approaches that draw from Indigenous knowledge systems and techniques such as storytelling, talking circles, theater/drama/song and dance, hands-on activities, and language.

Minisinaakwaang Hires Staff, Seeks BIE Status

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy will open its doors this fall with several new staff, as well as new hope for federal support.

Last year's director, Josh Mailhot, has moved on, so the school is working with consultant Paul McGlynn to hire new teachers and find a full-time director.

McGlynn has been working closely with Amber Buckanaga, who is the new Ojibwe Language and Culture Department Coordinator. Amber has been working at the school since 2012 and has served as a paraprofessional, school board member and language nest planning coordinator. She's enrolled at Leech Lake but has lived her entire life in the Minisinaakwaang area.

Amber is a graduate of Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College and is planning to enroll in the new teacher training program that is a partnership between FDLTCC and Winona State. Eight others in the community, six who work at the school, are also interested in the program, Amber said.

"We want our school to be full of teachers from our community," said Amber. "Eventually we want to be an immersion school pre-K to 12, but for now we are working on getting language teachers licensed." Until then, language apprentices improve their skills by working with Ojibwe speakers in the community like Vincent Merrill, Niib, Winnie LaPrairie and Brenda Moose.

The school will employ five licensed teachers to cover kin-

dergarten through 12th grade. There are 27 students enrolled for fall

Amber said the school staff is working on developing a sports program and a quiz bowl team.

The charter school also has a new authorizer, IQS, which provides the service to many schools around the country.

Eventually the community hopes a charter school authorizer will become unnecessary. A research project is underway to show that the U.S. government once ran a school in the community, which would make Minisinaakwaang eligible to become a Bureau of Indian Education school like Nay Ah Shing.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy September Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Joe Anderson Jr. Sandra Lynne Anderson Cynthia Mae Benjamin Dennis Wayne Benjamin Joyce Marie Benjamin Julie Louise Benjamin Joanne Frances Boyd Rose Marie Bugg James Douglas Colsrud Keith Edward Dahlberg Roger Dorr Raymond Allen Eubanks Lloyd Dale Evans Shirley Ann Evans Lorena Joy Gahbow Joseph Wm. Garbow Ricky Joe Garbow Roger Duane Garbow Bernice Bea Gardner Lisa Celeste Griffin Loretta Lea Hansen

Carol Anne Hernandez Bernida Mae Humetewa Donna Lianne Iverson Kathleen Lorena Johnson **Beverly Marie Jones** Marlan Wayne Lucas Rueben Dale Merrill Carol Jean Mojica Jacqueline Jean Moltaji Elmer Eugene Nayquonabe Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe Laureen Jennifer Nickaboine DeWayne Michael Pike Alan Ray Premo Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce Bernadine Joyce Roberts Carol Ann Sam Darlene Joyce Sam Karen Louise Sam Melanie Lou Sam Kevin Duane Schaaf Janice Arlene StandingCloud Charles W. Sutton Judie Erma Thomas Julie Erna Thomas

Marty Russell Thomas Russell Harvey Thomas Arne Vainio Jr. Leonard Wayne Weyaus Richard James Weyaus Bonita Diane White Donald Ray Williams Dale Barnet Wind

Happy September Birthdays:

Happy 31st birthday to **Sarah Day!** From your Siesta Snook
Lopez Boswell. • Happy 8th
Birthday to **Cheyauna Rei Boswell** on 9/1 from Neema,
Snook, Jaagaab, Gramma
Frances, Baby Ricki Leila, Baby
Ant and Big Brother Antwaun
Sr. • Happy birthday to **Daddy**(**Tony Pike**) and **Grandma**(**Deloris Pike**) on 9/3! Love,
Stina Pike. • Happy birthday **Dad** on 9/3! Love Kevin. •

Happy birthday to Adrienne Benjamin! From Cousin Barbara Jo and Family. • Happy 10th birthday to **Sy Monster** on 9/6! Love you nephew! Love, Auntie Danielle, Uncle Gabe, Gramma TT, Kenny, Josh, Caddy, Lolo and Freddie. • Happy birthday to **Sarah Oswaldson** on 9/8! From Snookz. • Happy birthday to Charlotte on 9/9! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy 31st Birthday to **Snook** Boswell on 9/10! From Laila Ricket cheyeauna Baby Ant neema gram Fran sugaShane. • Happy birthday **Chris Earl** Sam on 9/13! From Cousin Barbara Jo and Family. • Happy 10th birthday to Kenny III on 9/14! Love you lots son! Love, Mom, stepdad, Gabe, Gramma TT, Joshy, Caddy Lolo and Freddie. • Happy birthday

brothers and sissys! • Happy birthday **Darlene "Doll" Sam** on 9/23! From Cousin Barbara Jo and Family. • Happy birthday to **Nadine** on 9/28! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to **Tracy** on 9/29! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy 18th birthday to **Ian Bearheart** on 9/29! From Grandma Barb, Dad, Uncle Bunny, Uncle Brandon, Uncle Bear and Auntie Jo.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is 20 WORDS OR LESS to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.

The deadline for the October issue is September 15.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Health Fairs

Mark your calendar! Community Health Fairs will be held on the following days: District III, Oct. 25; District II, Oct. 26; District I, Oct. 27; District IIa, Oct. 28. The theme this year is "Community Health Journey."

Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Susan Klapel, DNR Executive Director

Ed Minnema, Commissioner of Education

320-630-0674

Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services

Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development

Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration

320-630-7415

Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration

320-292-0258

RECURRING EVENTS

to Brad on 9/17! Love your

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Open Gym

Mondays – Thursdays, 5:30 – 9 p.m. District I Community Center

Elders Beading Group

Mondays, 5-8 p.m. District I Assisted Living Unit





The winners of 2016 Iskigamizigan Powwow Royalty Contest were Shianna Smallwood, Jenai Beaulieu, Robert Anderson and Aidan Brooks. Miigwech and congratulations to all who competed!

WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS LEAVES TURNING MOON SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events Band Assembly meetings begin at 10 a.m. Locations and times are subject to change.		1 Band Assembly Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers COH Outreach 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office	2 MLB Government Closed at Noon	Mitig: tree Mitigokaa: There are many trees.		
Aniibiish: leaf Aniibiishikaa: There are many leaves. Ozaawibagaa: There are yellow/brown leaves.	Elders Beading Group 5 – 8 p.m. District I Assisted Living Unit MLB Government Closed for Labor Day	6 Band Assembly Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers	Regalia Making Class 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. DI Community Center	8 COH Outreach (DII) 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. DII Community Center Back to School Event 5:30 — 7:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers	9 Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament 9 a.m. Black Bear Casino Resort	Family Golf Outing 9 a.m. Grand National Golf Club
Gikinoo'amaadiwiga- mig: A school Gikinoo'amaagozi: S/he goes to school	Gekinoo'amaaged: a teacher Gikinoo'amaagewikwe: a female teacher Gikinoo'amaagewinini: a male teacher	13 Band Assembly Minisinaakwaang ALU	DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center	Elder Services Meeting East Lake ALU DII Band Assembly Intercontinental Riverfront Hotel St. Paul, MN	Gekinoo'amaagan: a student	2nd Annual Chameleon 5k Run/Walk 10 a.m. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Powwow Grounds
Naawakwe-wiisini: S/he eats lunch. Nawapo: S/he takes provisions along, takes a lunch along.	Dagwaagin: It is fall/autumn. Endaso-dagwaagi: Every fall.	COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. DIII Community Center Band Assembly Chi Minising Community Center	21 DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center	Band Assembly Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Meeting at Grand Casino Mille Lacs	Gigizhebaa-wiisini: S/he eats breakfast	Giishpin: If Giishpin biigoseg l'iw odaabanish, mii go imaa izhi-nagadan: If that old car breaks down, just leave it there.
Dash: and, and then, but. Ingii-wiisin niin zhigwa. Giin dash. I already ate. Did you?	Anishinaabemo: S/he speaks Ojibwe, speaks an Indian language. Indanishinaabem: I speak Ojibwe, speak an Indian language.	Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. DI Community Center Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center Band Assembly Aazhoomog Community Center	28 Dila Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.	Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Band Assembly Grand Casino Hinckley	Niminwendaan waabaminaan. I'm glad to see you.	You can practice Ojibwe on your own by using the Ojibwe People's Dictionary at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.





Chi Miigwech to all of the powwow committees, staff and volunteers who make our annual powwows a success!

U.N. Declaration of Indigenous Rights Discussed at Workshop

About 30 tribal leaders from across Minnesota came to Grand Casino Hinckley on Aug. 4 to meet with staff from the Indian Law Resource Center. Executive Director Robert "Tim" Coulter and attorney Jana Walker presented on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and discussed how tribes can become active in international affairs to ensure that their rights are being protected.

After Amik gave an invocation, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who is on the board of the Indian Law Resource Center, introduced the meeting by talking about the organization's advocacy on behalf of tribes, including protection of sacred sites, language and culture, and stopping violence against women and human trafficking.

Jana Walker summarized the content of the U.N. Declaration and spoke of the Center's work to end violence against indigenous women.

Tim Coulter talked about how tribes can lobby the international body through written statements, proposals, objections to U.S. actions, raising concerns about rights violations, and gaining allies from other countries and indigenous peoples.

Coulter also talked about the 30-year process of getting the Declaration passed. Efforts began with appearances by tribal leaders in 1977. The U.N. passed the Declaration in 2007, but four countries, including the U.S., refused to support it. In 2010, the U.S. became the last of those four countries to reverse its position and support the Declaration.

Coulter also said the United Nations is in the process of making it possible for indigenous tribal governments to participate at the U.N. "For the first time, tribal governments will be able to re-join the community of world governments," Coulter said. "That's big. That's historic."

The Declaration, according to Coulter, "recognizes that indigenous peoples throughout the world have a permanent right to exist as peoples, nations, cultures and societies." Its 46 articles cover rights to lands, resources, enhanced jurisdiction, education, consultation, economic development, culture and language, and other topics.

Jamie Edwards of the Band's Government Affairs Division brought a friend from the Inca tribe in Colombia, who shared a video about his tribe's successful battle to regain control of lands

For the entire U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, visit http://bit.ly/2byCarh. The workshop was hosted by the Mille Lacs Band and sponsored by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council





Tim Coulter and Jana Walker presented on the United Nations and the Indian Law Resource Center at Grand Casino Hinckley Aug. 4.



Summary of Expenditures and	Approved Budget for FY	Expenditures through	% of Budget Expended
Financing Uses:	2016	6/30/2016	
Administration (1)	16,035,962	10,229,402	63.79%
Department of Labor	21,184,777	4,743,094	22.39%
Judicial	1,384,116	752,207	54.35%
Department of Justice	5,776,849	3,717,876	64.36%
Education	18,503,967	12,621,378	68.21%
Health and Human Services	23,812,402	13,736,553	57.69%
Circle of Health Insurance	9,976,600	5,030,746	50.43%
Natural Resources	7,751,958	5,687,314	73.37%
Community Development	86,088,126	20,754,028	24.11%
Gaming Authority	5,265,965	3,148,141	59.78%
Economic Supplimental Distribution	2,992,601	2,201,485	73.56%
Bonus Distribution	33,816,117	31,971,665	94.55%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,171,000	3,171,000	100.00%
Total	235,760,440	117,764,889	49.95%

- (1) Administration includes Chief Executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) Casino operations are not reported above, however they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Financial Statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.
 As of October 1, 1997, the Band established separate accounting functions for Corporate Ventures



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During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Design Committee Members Needed

The Health and Human Services Department is looking for Mille Lacs Band community members to help design the new District I Health and Human Services Building and District II Minisinaakwaang Clinic. As a facility user and community member, we feel your input to the design process would be very helpful in designing buildings the community will use and enjoy.

If you have any questions or are interested in being on either the District I or District II HHS design committees, please contact Jeff Larson or Michelle Beaulieu at 320-532-4163.



INAJIMOJBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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STANDING WITH STANDING ROCK

BAND MEMBERS JOIN THE PIPELINE PROTESTS

PAGE 5

NEW COMMUNITY CENTER, CLINICS IN THE WORKS FALLEN TRIBAL FIREFIGHTERS HONORED

LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION AT BAND SCHOOLS YOUTH EXCEL ON RAIDERS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



M E L A N I E B E N J A M I N

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

By the time Band Members receive this edition of the Band news, the November elections will only be one month away. As tribal governments, we have friends in the Congress and in the State legislature from both parties whom we support, so we are bipartisan. For this Presidential election, however, the stakes have never been higher for Indian people.

Aaniin, Boozhoo! Looking back on September, the highlight of the month was the trip with Band elders to Niagara Falls for the annual conference of the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA). I heard from many elders that this was the best NICOA conference they ever attended. Our side trip to see the actual Niagara Falls was an amazing experience; the beauty and power of the water falls was overwhelming!

The theme of water also played out at Standing Rock this past month, where thousands of Indian people have travelled to support those who are fighting to protect their only drinking water source from the Dakota Access Pipeline. I was invited by Marlene Helgemo, of All Nations Indian Church, to join her on a trip to Standing Rock on September 7-8. As we drove into the camp, it was amazing to see our Mille Lacs Band flag flying, along with the flags of so many other Indian Nations. Chairman Archambault even came to meet us in our camp and we had a

great visit. I know many other Band Members have travelled to Standing Rock over the past several weeks, and more plan to go. Seeing so many thousands of Indian tribes and people standing in solidarity with one another was an experience I'll never forget.

With regard to the Sandpiper Pipeline that Enbridge proposed through northern Minnesota, we have temporarily won a reprieve in that fight. Enbridge is delaying its efforts to build the Sandpiper for now, but the battle is not over. Enbridge is still planning to rebuild Line 3, which follows the Sandpiper route. We will continue to do everything we can to stop the pipelines that threaten our lands and waters.

Next week, I am attending the President's annual White House meeting for tribal leaders, and am bringing a position paper on the need to reform the consultation process used by the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as calling for more aggressive action by the Departments of Interior and Justice to intervene and help us protect our trust resources, including land, water and wild rice. I will also be delivering papers calling for more federal support of our efforts to fight the opiate epidemic and to improve and increase federal support for law enforcement.

There were dozens of other meetings that happened in September and work that was done, but I want to use the remainder of my space on what I believe is the most important topic we face this fall. By the time Band Members receive this edition of the Band news, the November elections will only be one month away. As tribal governments, we have friends in the Congress and in the State legislature from both parties whom we support, so we are bipartisan. For this Presidential election, however, the stakes have never been higher for Indian people.

A Donald Trump presidency could be the most devastating turn of events for Indian tribes and people since the termination era, and I want Band Members to be armed with the facts. Trump fought Indian gaming in the early 1990s in order to protect his own gaming monopoly at the time on the east coast. Band elders attended a congressional hearing in D.C. that Trump testified at, where he made racist comments about

Indian people. He has been a loud voice for taxing Indian people and Indian tribes, has alleged that Indian people are not smart enough to do well in business, and has questioned the legitimacy of Indian tribes based on the physical appearance of their members. He has referred to Native people in the most derogatory and racist of terms, and repeatedly refers to Senator Elizabeth Warren as "Pocahontas." He has proposed abolishing agencies we depend upon to protect our people and resources, including the EPA and the Department of Education. Trump would repeal Obama-care, including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. I firmly believe we must do everything in our power to prevent him from winning the White House.

In contrast, I am convinced that Hillary Clinton is the most qualified person to ever run for the Presidency in the history of the United States, and I know she would be a champion for Indian tribes and people. I serve as Co-Chair of her Native American Policy Work Group, and know she has an outstanding, thoughtful Native American platform including ensuring meaningful tribal consultation and empowerment; protecting tribal assets and resources; strengthening public safety and justice in Indian country; combatting drug and alcohol addiction; increasing opportunity for youth and ensuring high quality education for native youth; ensuring tribal communities have improved health care; and fighting for Indian veterans. From my perspective there is only one clear choice for President, and that is Hillary Clinton.

Whomever you support, please do make sure you vote — and bring a relative or friend as well. Our Ogichidaag fought for our rights, and we owe it to them to exercise our right to vote. Also, many Band Members will have an opportunity to cast their ballot for Band Member Chilah Brown on November 8! Chilah is running for the State Legislature, and if she wins, she will make history as our first Band Member elected to state office. Miigwech to all Band Members for all you do, and please get out the vote on November 8!

Melani Benjani





Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spent time at Standing Rock in September to lend her support to the opposition against the Dakota Access pipeline.

Ground Broken for Hinckley Community Center

Community members, contractors and employees gathered in Hinckley on Aug. 30 to break ground for what will be a stateof-the-art community center.

After a dish was set and prayers said by Skip Churchill, Community Development Commissioner Percy Benjamin introduced District III Rep. Harry Davis and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who thanked the staff and members of the community who participated in the planning process.

Percy gave special thanks to Community Development staff members Mike Moilanen and Ryan Jendro, who were instrumental in developing plans for the facility.

Mike and Ryan talked about the building, which will be a two-story, 45,000 square foot facility with meeting rooms, a fitness center, a gymnasium, an indoor track and an outdoor splash pad.

The brick-and-steel exterior is expected to last for generations, and the floral designs on the gym walls were designed by Band member Steve Premo.

Percy said a high priority for the project is providing District III youth opportunities to participate in healthy activities.











Clockwise from top left: Harry Davis, Melanie Benjamin and Percy Benjamin. Construction of the facility is expected to take about a year. Community members, contractors and government officials took part in the groundbreaking on Aug. 30.

Mille Lacs Band Receives \$20,000 Grant for Integrated Food Systems Project

The Band recently received a \$20,000 grant from the First Nations Development Institute of Longmont, Colorado. This award will support the efforts of the Band's Integrated Food Systems Program.

The Integrated Food Systems Program is a partnership between Band programs and communities to produce healthy foods to eat, share and sell. The First Nations Development Institute grant will fund community food assessment surveys and the identification of top priorities, concerns and barriers to affordable, healthy foods, while measuring community members' interest in participating in an ongoing project. The data gathered will include a feasibility study and strategies to address community concerns. An action plan will be created based on the data, and a follow-up survey will be conducted to determine community satisfaction with the project. The grant is part of the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative

made possible through support from the NoVo Foundation.

The Band's Administration Department has been working with the Honor The Earth organization to identify best practices, provide comments and feedback on proposed food codes, and develop logical phasing of the project. During the summer of 2016, the program established gardens and developed farming projects in all three districts, distributed gardening boxes and plants to Band members, and worked with Nay Ah Shing Schools and Assisted Living Units to provide healthy food to students and Elders.

Commissioner of Administration Catherine Colsrud expressed her gratitude to First Nations Development Institute and the NoVo Foundation. "This is such a valuable gift given to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe," said Catherine. "With this grant, we will be able to identify and address the top concerns of our community, as related to food deserts in our communi-



First harvest from one of the newly developed agricultural plots in Mille Lacs Band District I.

ty. Increasing access to healthier food choices will not only help the Mille Lacs Band citizens, but also our neighbors who are working diligently to increase sustainable agriculture right here in our area. The funding provided by the grant will help us determine the next steps and assess the success of our efforts so far. In our language, we say 'Chi miigwech' — many thanks — for supporting this project."

Band Fire Crew Honors Fallen Tribal Firefighters



Two wildland firefighters from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community — 25-year-old A.J. Swartz and 23-year-old Jimmy Shelifoe — were tragically killed August 28 on their way to fight the Box Canyon forest fires in Utah. They died

when the truck they were riding in went off the road in Blaine, Minn

On Aug. 30, the Mille Lacs Band fire crew of Dean Staples, Eli Staples, Ernie Boyd and Tyler Rosnau, along with Mille Lacs Band Emergency Manager Monte Fronk, were among those who paid their respects by escorting the fallen back to their homes.

The motorcade from the funeral home in St. Paul to Baraga, Mich., was the longest in the history of the fire service. Normally fallen fighters are flown home and then motorcaded to a church or funeral home.

Mille Lacs Engine 1061 was the only non-official motorcade vehicle to run the entire procession from St. Paul to Baraga.

As the procession left the cities, vehicles pulled off to a rest

area where they met the families and fire crew on a coach bus, who joined the motorcade.

Engines from various agencies such as the Minnesota DNR and Fond Du Lac DNR/BIA parked on overpasses on Interstate 35, and department members saluted and flew flags as the motorcade passed under them.

The Fond Du Lac DNR/BIA joined the procession with Engine 561.

As the procession crossed into Superior, Wisc., all of the towns were crowded with citizens and firefighters flying flags while saluting or standing with hands over hearts.

On the Bad River Reservation, Band members offered tobacco, songs, drumming and jingle dress dancing as the motorcade passed through.

At every stop, the two black vans carrying the fallen firefighters had honor guard firefighters standing watch over them.

The procession started with approximately 20 vehicles, and when it reached Baraga, it was nearly three miles long.

Upon reaching the final destination at a local church, the honor guard gave both fallen firefighters honors, folding the flags that were draped on the caskets and handing the flags over to family members along with honors.

Monte Fronk was one of nine members of the official Honor Guard detail, and he also served as a tribal liaison.

Brooklyn Park Fire Chief Kenneth T. Prillaman gave a special thanks to Monte for his help. "We would have been significantly handicapped without Monte's participation, counsel and wisdom," he said.



Firefighters from various agencies saluted the motorcade as it passed.

National News Briefs

U.S. Suspends Construction on Part of North Dakota Pipeline: The Dakota Access pipeline has been a site of both controversy and solidarity over the past couple of weeks. In a tremendous display of unification for a cause, Native American tribes from all over the country have united in peaceful protest of the 1,170-mile-long oil pipeline that would run through North and South Dakota, lowa and Illinois. The efforts, led by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, have finally been heard by the federal government. As of now, the federal Justice Department has temporarily blocked construction of the pipeline. The pipeline is a threat to Native American tribal sovereignty, waters and lands — and serves as a striking reminder of how Native rights continue to be pushed aside in the face of capital interests. In this most recent court development, judges have shed light on the continued miscommunication between government and tribal officials and the need for reform of the legal standards and processes of invasive environmental projects.

Scandal Continues to Hinder Bureau of Indian Education Efforts: Members of Congress and the Bureau of Indian Education are battling over where and how to invest money for tribal education. Earlier this month the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs approved a bill that would allow Indian parents to use BIE funds to send their children to institutions of their choice. Critics say that the federal government should be investing more money in the Bureau of Indian Education if they want to improve achievement levels among Native American students. There has since been division within the bureau and Congress on how to approach the educational opportunities for tribal students. This has resulted in a lawsuit against the Obama administration for its plan, "A Blueprint for Reform." The outcomes of these court proceedings will have direct impact on how Native American students are educated, and where the funding comes from.

Federal Judge to Issue New Rules for Local Courts on ICWA Cases: In South Dakota, a District Court Judge has received no help from the county in court cases involving Native American children. He found that Indians were denied protections guaranteed under the constitution and the Indian Child Welfare Act. In two lawsuits, he found that Native American parents were denied the right to representation by an attorney. He has been seeking help in getting the federal courts to remedy these violations of the plaintiffs in cases involving Native Americans. Judge Jeffrey Viken continues to work on changing the practices of the local courts and will be appealing his court case to pave the way for better respect to Native Americans in further hearings.

Album Stream: A Tribe Called Red — 'We Are the Halluci Nation': The Canadian hip-hop crew "A Tribe Called Red" has produced a new album. The band's members are of First Nations communities and draw inspiration for their music from their indigenous heritage. The new album is an international, intra-continental blast of electronic futurism, backed by socially conscious rhymes and guest features. Their message is about being and acting in solidarity with like-minded people and understanding how to most effectively thwart oppression in our broken system. On this album, the group collaborated with other Indigenous peoples from across the world.

Reservation Residents Complete Community Leadership Program

Twenty-eight residents of the Mille Lacs, Shakopee, Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux Indian Communities returned August 10 from a two-day leadership workshop. This was the final segment of an intense, seven-day training provided by the Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program (BRCLP) which included a five-day retreat held earlier this year.

A program of the Grand Rapids-based Blandin Foundation, BRCLP has provided experiential leadership training for more than 500 community leaders from 11 Minnesotan American Indian Reservations since 2001. This is the sixth time these communities have participated together in the BRCLP leadership program.

The goal of the Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program is to strengthen leadership capacity through cultural strengths and assets to build and sustain healthy tribal communities. Topics covered during the retreat included: acknowledging and drawing upon leadership strengths, recognizing and tapping into sources of personal and community resilience, framing community issues and opportunities, building social capital and mobilizing community resources.

"A healthy community depends on leadership engagement of many community members," said Valerie Shangreaux, director of Blandin leadership programs. "The leadership demonstrated by these participants reflects their deep commitment to their communities, their reservations and the people



living there."

BRCLP training programs are funded entirely by the Blandin Foundation, whose mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area.

Members of the most recent BRCLP training group learned about the nine dimensions of a healthy community and how to use the nine dimensions to create a holistic vision of healthy reservation communities. BRCLP uses a culturally-focused, asset-based approach to training community leaders. Nearly 30 residents from four reservation communities participated in this most recent training, which concluded August 10.

Get Out the Vote

Katie Draper Guest Writer

"Why vote?"

As an employee of the Government Affairs department, our day-to-day operations involve various tasks, but most importantly building relationships with external governments. By government I mean townships, cities, counties, states, and Federal. When working with government at all levels our goal is to have the best possible relationship with the elected officials of those governments. As a sovereign nation, we have our own government and operations, but as dual citizens of the United States of America, external relations with other governments can impact our Tribal government through changes in law and policies.

External governments are not always easy to work with. For example: They may question our sovereignty, boundaries and treaty rights. When faced with these challenges the Band works to find the best possible solution to move beyond those challenges. By voting, we have the power to remove those undesirable people who question our sovereignty, boundaries and treaty rights from public office.

Can you imagine the impact if a Band member were elected into public office? It can happen!

Together, we have the power to do that.

Currently, there are 3,200 Band members who are over the age of 18. That is a lot of votes. Those votes can make a major impact on any election whether it be local, state or federal. For

example, in 2008 Senator Franken (who has been a champion for the Band by standing with us and advocating for our rights) won by a mere 312 votes out of over 2.4 million voters. That narrow margin is too close, and our vote can make the difference!

In order to vote in Minnesota, you must be:

- A U.S. Citizen
- At least 18 years old on Election Day (November 8th, 2016)
- A resident of Minnesota for 20 days
- Finished with all parts of a felony sentence (parole, probation, supervised release)

The Minnesota Secretary of State website (sos.state.mn.us) has an abundance of information about Election Day and voting. You can now register to vote online! It is very easy and takes little time. Please visit the website to explore early voting, absentee voting and other voting options.

If you have questions about Election Day or are interested in helping with election activities, please contact Katie Draper at 320-515-0846 or Jamie Edwards at 612-850-2124.

Band members are also encouraged to attend a Get Out the Native Vote rally on Friday, Oct. 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Ballroom.



Family fun!

Thirty-two teams took part in the Corporate Ventures Family Golf Outing in Hinckley last month.







Run like a chameleon!

Dozens of kids — and a few adults — participated in the Second Annual Chameleon Run Sept. 17 at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. The event was started last year by Amy Maske, the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) coordinator with the Public Health Department. Amy has since moved on to a new job, but she volunteered to come back and help organize the run again. Tribal Police officers helped keep runners safe, and staff from the Niigaan Program and Public Health Department set up color stations along the three-kilometer route and served healthy food at the end of the run. Amy said the Chameleon Run originated as a fun way to promote healthy activity.

Standing with Standing Rock

Chad Germann Guest Writer

I've visited the protest at Standing Rock. I traveled there with members of the Mille Lacs Band Corporate Ventures team, bringing nearly 1,000 blankets and other supplies for the cause in large company transportation trucks. Almost nine hours drive from Mille Lacs. And what I want most to share with you — which is what I've been sharing with everyone I talk to since I've returned — is that you should go, too. If you can, you should go. Go right now. And bring supplies. Firewood, apples or band-aids. Bring whatever you can fit in your car when you go. But go.

Why? Because the pipeline protest at Standing Rock is like nothing I've known in my lifetime. And I'll probably never see anything like it again. And as a Native American visiting there, there's a feeling I found inside myself that I've only ever found there. It's hard to describe. Pride is part of it. A feeling of solidarity that comes from stepping in and helping with a cause much bigger than yourself. But both of those feelings — pride and solidarity — have a Native flavor that reminds me of how I feel when I travel to the National Indian Gaming Conventions and find myself surrounded by thousands of Native American business people. All of us doing work together to benefit our communities, building our businesses, our futures. All of us Natives, working together. Makes me so proud to be participating in the Native business community. And it's that feeling, or a version of it, that I felt inside myself when I was at the Standing Rock camp. And believe me, it's an amazingly positive feeling.

When you pull into camp, they meet you at the gate with smoking smudge pots and bless your car as you enter. All day long, people are blessing the cars as they come into camp! All day long, every day. Which is the over-arching feeling that runs through everything at the camp: serious dedication. The Dakota Access Pipeline is a threat that garners serious and dedicated opposition, and the people there seem to be up for the challenge

The camp is stocked with supplies from all corners of Indian Country. They have a large, open kitchen from which they feed the thousands of campers three meals a day. The food is cooked using open fires, which requires an enormous amount of firewood. Several people were chopping wood all day long, from sun up to sun down, chop, chop, chop. (Someone needs to donate a log-splitter to them ASAP.) Donations are welcomed in, unloaded and quickly dispersed to the proper places. Very systematic, organized.

When we arrived, we were efficiently unloaded and thanked, and as soon as we moved out, other trucks took our place to unload their donated supplies. Donations arrived regularly. A pick-up truck from Oklahoma pulled in after we moved our trucks. They were a family of five, from the Osage Nation, with a truck full of miscellaneous donations. They said they just wanted to come, so they loaded up their truck and came. The pride registered on their faces was an explanation that made perfect sense to me — they wanted to participate.

Continued on page 6.

State & Local News Briefs

Vainio is 2016 Award Recipient: Every year the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the McKnight Foundation announce the Virginia McKnight Binger "Unsung Hero" Awards which honor individuals for the significant impact they have had on the state of Minnesota and its communities. This year, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe member Dr. Arne Vainio of Cloquet, MN received the award. Arne is a physician on the Fond du Lac Reservation, serving long hours at the clinic as well as traveling to reservations all across America to discuss Native health, suicide and Native traditions. His passion for health led him to bring his "Mad Dr. Science Project" to many classrooms. Arne hopes to inspire young Native Americans to take up careers in health and science while carrying on the tribal tradition.

Measure Twice, Cut Once: Carpenters and Summit Academy Students: Summit Academy is a program that offers 20-week job training programs that ready students for apprenticeships and internships in the construction trades, or in healthcare and medical-related career positions. Native American students are a small but growing percentage of the program, with potential to increase with the GED preparation program. The program offers a pathway to good jobs for Native Americans who face high unemployment rates and those who've left school before graduating. SAOIC is one of three programs in Minnesota.

Wetterling's Remains Discovered in Western Stearns County: After 27 years, Jacob Wetterling's body was finally discovered in Western Stearns County. Wetterling is the boy who went missing in 1989 after being abducted at gunpoint while riding bike home from a convenience store with his brother and a friend. Wetterling was abducted by Danny Heinrich, a pedophile, who has recently been arrested and convicted, and who has finally come forward with the truth about what happened that day. Wetterling's case is a remarkable one which has prompted Patty Wetterling, Jacob's mother, to spend the last 27 years advocating for children's safety and pushing for legislation. She is currently the Chair of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Wetterling's story reminds us just how important it is to practice communication and safe behavior if you have young children out on

The Busiest-Ever Minnesota State Fair? You Betcha: Those of you who braved the crowds at this year's "Great Minnesota Get-Together" were part of a record-setting attendance. A record 1,943,719 fairgoers visited the Minnesota State Fair this year. Single day attendance records were also broken on the Fair's two Fridays as Minnesotans flocked to St. Paul for great weather and delicious foods. Fair coordinators claim that by spreading things out and coordinating traffic they avoided congestion and were able to successfully accommodate larger crowds.

Minnesota Athletes Get Set for Paralympics in Rio: Governor Mark Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith recognized the 11 Minnesota native athletes who competed in Rio at the Paralympics, which ran until September 18. Rose Hollerman from Elysian, Minn. competed in women's wheelchair basketball, Lexi Shifflett of Waseca competed in sitting volleyball, and Chuck Aoki from Minneapolis competed in men's wheelchair rugby.

Standing with Standing Rock continued from page 5.

Because the cause is so very just and good. And you are helping other Natives who are backed against the wall. A people whose rights are being trashed. Again. (The same story, right? As always.) And so helping, being a part of the fight, just feels right and good and makes you so very proud.

That's exactly how I felt when I watched Joe Nayquonabe Jr. shake hands with the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, David Archambault II. The chairman says "thank you," Joe smiles. And I know he feels like I felt — that we are helping, we are making a difference in this very important Native American fight for our rights. So very proud to participate.

Having said that, I can't imagine staying there for long.

Tanya Aubid has been there from the beginning. She fought the pipeline that threatens our Mille Lacs Band waters here in Minnesota, and when the oil company shifted to Standing Rock, she went west to help. She's been staying at the camp on and off for several weeks. Her tent — soon to be a wigwam (when she can get all the supplies for building a proper wigwam) — is in a part of the camp called the "Red Warriors Camp," which is where the most serious water protectors reside. Tanya's been arrested, as have many others, and when I talked to her she was fresh from her visit to town where she met the local judge presiding over her case and set a date for her hearing, requesting a trial from him. "The more publicity the better," she says.

I love her dedication, which is echoed by so many others throughout the camp, but I fear for them just the same. The cold winter weather is right around the corner. Although I didn't yet feel it on the night I camped there, I do know it's coming. And I can't help but wonder how their open kitchen will function in the

snow. Will all the campers manage to keep warm? I know they are Indians and their ancestors made it work. But how many of us modern Indians have that fortitude? I don't think I do.

I can't predict the future. The oil companies are strong. They own the politicians outright. But the Native people seem resolved to stand and fight. Truly, nothing could be more important on those grassy plains than a good, clean supply of water. But I don't know what will happen. History, which hasn't been kind to Natives, suggests we won't win out.

Whatever happens there, win or lose, I am glad I participated, if only for a day. When you are there, you forget the bad run we've had and you feel like History will turn and this one we will win. I hope so. I want very much for us to win this. Our turn to win one of these fights must come, eventually.















Band Moves Forward on Four Winds Transition

In her 2015 State of the Band address, Chief Melanie Benjamin gave a strong directive to the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to develop improvements in addiction treatment services. Since then, the HHS Department under Commissioner Sam Moose has been implementing a multi-dimensional Opiate Response Plan, including improvement of residential treatment options.

In late 2014, HHS approached the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) about the Mille Lacs Band Department of Health and Human Services taking over the ownership and management of the Four Winds CARE program in Brainerd. (It has been the long-range plan for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to provide inpatient chemical dependence treatment services.)

The Four Winds program has operated as a culturally specific Native American program providing addiction treatment services to Minnesota's Indian community for many years.

The State of Minnesota has made a decision to change the structure of their State Operated Services CARE programs which will substantially reduce the access that Minnesota's Indian community has to culturally specific drug and alcohol addiction treatment.

"We have been exploring ways to develop a stronger component of inpatient or residential treatment services that can provide care to the neediest members of our communities who struggle with addiction," said HHS Executive Director Jeff Larson. "Our research on this process looked at developing strategic partnerships with existing treatment programs as well as looking at ways we might establish our own programs. Taking over the Four Winds program seems like the best way to achieve quick results to address our communities' needs and to continue to provide services to people from other tribes in Minnesota."

After months of discussion, HHS moved ahead in early 2016 with a letter of intent to take over the program at the end of the year. The Band approached the Minnesota Legislature with the support of Governor Dayton to secure funding to assist with the transition, but the Legislature did not act on the request.

Since May, HHS staff have been working with the state to secure an alternate source of funding to assist with the anticipated shortfall during the initial transition of ownership. In August, the state informed the Band that they had identified a source of funding to assist in the transition, and talks were back on track.

"We have been working with several teams jointly made up of state and MLBO HHS staff to develop a transition plan," said Commissioner Sam Moose. "The goal would be to create a space that is welcoming, healing, and reflective of Anishinaabe values and of our way of life."

Moose and his staff plan to develop the former Four Winds site into a center serving the needs of American Indians from around Minnesota with a culturally specific model of care that fully integrates cultural programming, addiction recovery programming, and fully integrated care for co-occurring mental health conditions.

The transition of the program from DHS to the Mille Lacs

Band of Ojibwe will include the rebranding of the program with a new name and identity that is reflective of the culture of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is rooted in our traditions and values.

Moose said the Transition Plan has been developed in collaboration with the DHS along with some investment from the State of Minnesota to repurpose and reprogram the Four Winds program. "I'm extremely excited about what the addition of inpatient treatment services means to the Tribe and our Opiate Response Plan!" Moose said.

The department is also considering a withdrawal management program which could include a sobering up center which would provide an alternative for Band members rather than being sent to detox programs in the Twin Cities or St. Cloud. Additionally, these services could be billed to neighboring counties who have detox responsibility.

Finally, HHS has been meeting with other organizations to develop potential partnerships for technical assistance and/or transition consulting to develop Four Winds into a successful Tribal Treatment Model. Bringing in support from organizations that have experience in running successful and sustainable treatment models will help to make this project a success. "We have some good possibilities for implementation and ongoing management for this project, which will help to ensure that the program starts off on the right foot with a solid foundation for the future," Moose said.

HHS Seeks Input on District I, District II Clinics

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Sam Moose has been visiting with community members in Districts I and II regarding plans for new health clinics.

Phase I of planning for the District II Minisinaakwaang Clinic included service providers, professionals and auxiliary staff of the Department of Health and Human Services. The first phase identified the space needs and departmental needs for each HHS department: health services, family services, public health, behavioral health and community support services.

Architects from Seven Generations Architecture and Engineering (7Gen) were on hand to answer questions and take comments. The Michigan firm is owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and understands the needs of tribal communities as well as the requirements of the Indian Health Service.

Community members expressed gratitude and support for the new clinic plan. 7Gen staff said they are focused on creating an atmosphere of healing and wellness, with exam room interiors that are warm, durable and culturally appropriate to the community.

Three sites are being considered for the new Minisinaak-waang Clinic: (1.) South of the existing East Lake Community Center on the other side of the parking lot; (2.) North of the community center between the center and the Assisted Living Unit site; (3.) South of the new District II powwow grounds.

Sites 1 and 3 would utilize existing parking spaces and utility services. Site 2 would also be able to utilize utility services but would need a more comprehensive parking complex for staff and patients/clientele.

The current plan for internal office space, as described by 7Gen, includes the following: six exam rooms, two multipur-

pose rooms for behavioral health integrated services, lab services with separate draw room for blood work and other fluids, full x-ray services, two dental treatment rooms, a traditional healer space, public health offices, behavioral health offices, medical storage, community support offices and an administration office.

The Health and Human Services Department is looking for Mille Lacs Band community members to help design the new District I Health and Human Services Building and District II Minisinaakwaang Clinic. As a facility user and community member, we feel your input to the design process would be very helpful in designing buildings the community will use and enjoy.

If you have any questions or are interested in being on either the District I or District II HHS design committees, please contact Jeff Larson or Michelle Beaulieu at 320-532-4163.







Left: HHS Commissioner Sam Moose has been meeting with community and staff members about the design of new clinics in DI and II. Right: The DII clinic (top) and DI HHS building (bottom) were designed by Seven Generations Architecture and Engineering, a Michigan firm owned by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Language Revitalization at Band Schools Continues to be a Top Priority

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Revitalizing the Ojibwe language and ensuring it continues to thrive has been one of LeAnn Biidaana Benjamin's personal goals since she was in high school.

"I wanted everyone to learn the language," said LeAnn, who graduated from Nay Ah Shing and had Millie Zhaawin Benjamin as her first language teacher.

Now, decades later, as the language coordinator for the Band's schools, LeAnn is in the right position to help make her goals a reality.

LeAnn has been in her job for less than two months but has hit the ground running, not just to better learn her role, but because there's long been a universal push attached to language acquisition.

"Language is vitally important, especially as we're losing our first speakers," said LeAnn, adding that she is grateful for those who share her passion of keeping language at the forefront of their work. Besides finding new ways of growing the avenues in which Ojibwe has been taught, LeAnn wants to build on the work that has already been done.

"The immersion room at Wewinabi has been really successful," she said. "There's nothing but Ojibwe language spoken there, and it really benefits the kids."

One idea, which she hopes becomes a reality sooner rather than later, is to have more immersion rooms at both the lower and high school.

"I'm hoping by next year we'll have more in place."

Her ultimate dream, though, is to have an immersion school where Ojibwe is taught and spoken throughout all grades. As exciting as the idea is to LeAnn, she's realistic and knows that will take some time.

"We need staff committed to learning the language, and we're starting that through a teacher training program offered by the Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College," she said. "Then as people continue learning the language they can bring it back here."

The language program's staff of 12 is also working on their own skills both inside and outside of school. They participate in language tables and/or study sessions each week as one way to build on their own knowledge and ability.

Language tables give learners the opportunity to work on their skills together. They are offered weekly in the urban area and in Aazhoomog (District III).

In her role as the language coordinator, LeAnn oversees the work at Wewinabi, Pine Grove Academy and Nay Ah Shing upper and lower schools. Before assuming this role, LeAnn was a peacemaker at Nay Ah Shing.

One thing that can happen during this academic year is that Ojibwe language will be used more frequently in the class-room. She already sees some of that happening with the work of the students who are studying for the Ojibwe Knowledge Bowl, which will be held in November.

"This year we have a team made up of all males, and that excites me," said LeAnn, adding that there has only been a female team in the past years.

"Besides needing more staff who are or want to become language teachers, we need more male teachers and/or assistants within the classrooms at each school," LeAnn said.

LeAnn is also excited by other ideas that she hopes come to fruition soon, including the creation of an Ojibwe culture newsletter that would be sent home monthly for students and their families, and the inclusion of Ojibwe words in the yearbook, specifically the students' Indian names — an idea shared by her colleague, Greg Rutter.

In the meantime, families can also help by attending language tables together, practicing at home and being deliberate in their efforts to learn the language. Families are more than welcome to come in and help at the school in the classrooms and language tables.

"At home, emphasize the language as much as possible. Even the basics like using yes 'e'ya' or no 'gaawiin'," she said. "Families can also label items in their homes in Ojibwe and that can help.

"I want to do that at the school, too, by putting labels on doors, rooms, chairs and other things.

"I'm here to keep the language going, and we plan to do whatever we can to keep it alive," she said.

Artists Perform at Community Center, Nay Ah Shing

Hiphop performers Thomas Barrett and DJAO and visual artist Wesley May made two appearances in District I in September to inspire Mille Lacs Band members with their talents and stories.

The community center staff and Niigaan program hosted a performance on Thursday, Sept. 8. Thomas rapped about growing up on the Red Lake reservation, playing basketball, the Ojibwe language, and the Standing Rock protests, while Wesley created a painting with help from kids in the audience.

At Nay Ah Shing Upper School gymnasium on Friday, Sept. 9, they got the large crowd of students dancing, chanting and painting

Thomas started the event by sharing his story. He said he was devastated by the loss of friends in the Red Lake school shooting in 2005.

From there he started college, but he was held back by an

unhealthy lifestyle of addiction for seven years. "It drove me down until I hit rock bottom," Thomas said, "But I used rock bottom as my launching pad and said, 'All right, I'm going up from here."

He said he had recently finished his college education and told the students that no matter what they're going through, they can overcome obstacles.

Thomas said hip-hop music helped him in his recovery process. "For me, hip-hop changed my life and saves a lot of people. When you're feeling down, you throw on a song to get you through tough times. Music is power. Art is power."

Now he's using his music to help others connect to their heritage and learn to express themselves. "In Native country, we're very hesitant to express ourselves," he said. "We're 'Indian-ish' — very shy. It's okay because we were raised that way, but whatever it is you love, do it with passion. It's how

you express yourself. That was how I rose above everything that was in front of me."

Thomas also got political in his performance, encouraging the kids to stand, pump their fists and chant, "I stand with Standing Rock," while rapping about the oil pipeline protests in North Dakota.

His partners Wesley and DJAO recorded the students' chants and photographed their anti-pipeline posters to share with the protesters. As the music played, Wesley, with help from students, created a painting dedicated to the pipeline protesters.

Principal Noah Johnson told the District I community on Sept. 14 that the performance was part of a series of 16 experiential learning opportunities Nay Ah Shing students will participate in this year.







Thomas Barrett, DJAO and Wesley May performed in District I Sept. 8 and 9.

Manoomin Season Features Parade, Ricing Classes

Even in a year with a mediocre wild rice crop, manoomin is still the focal point of late summer and early fall in District II.

This year, ricing season included an appearance by Band members at the Wild Rice Days community festival in McGregor.

District II Rep. David 'Niib' Aubid was honored as Grand Marshal of the Wild Rice Days parade on Sept. 4. Riding in the back of a DNR pickup driven by John Aubid, and pulling a birch bark canoe, Niib was joined by three of the royalty from the Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow that took place in July in East Lake.

After the parade, Niib chatted with passersby about the canoe, which he had helped to build at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College

The District II community has participated in Wild Rice Days in the past, giving demonstrations on traditional wild rice processing — manoominike.

Down the road at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy, students kicked off the year with a manoomin harvest. Staff members Branden Sargent, Amber Buckanaga, and others taught the kids to make knocking sticks in the wigwam behind

the school.

On the lawn, they learned the techniques of poling the canoe and knocking the rice.

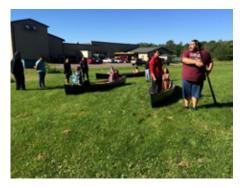
Finally, they hit the water and returned with enough rice to learn the next steps in manoominike: parching, jigging and winnowing.

According to Amber Buckanaga, learning cultural skills like ricing is an important part of the Minisinaakwaang curriculum.























Electrofishing Study Helps Estimate Walleye Population

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Electrofishing is nothing new to Mille Lacs fisheries biologist Carl Klimah. He participated in many electrofishing surveys in estuaries along Alabama's gulf coast as a graduate student.

Still, the electrofishing surveys at Mille Lacs he assisted on in the spring and fall of this year weren't easy.

"It was brutal," he said.

Carl and other biologists went out after dark several times last month and stayed out most of the night to conduct a survey of the entire shoreline of Mille Lacs. The data they collected helps them learn about the population of walleyes in Mille Lacs, which has been declining in recent years primarily due to poor survival of juvenile walleyes — although the reasons for poor survival are not understood.

"It might be partly due to invasive species, climate change or competition from other fish species," said Carl.

Electrofishing involves sending an electrical current into the water to temporarily stun fish so they can be collected, measured and released unharmed. The current is adjusted to concentrate on fish that are less than 15 inches.

As the boats travel slowly at one to three miles per hour, stunned fish are collected in nets and placed in holding tanks on the boats. They are handled with care by the boat crews, who take precautions to minimize stress on sampled fish.

Every 30 to 60 minutes, fish in the holding tanks are measured to the nearest tenth of an inch. Scale and spine samples are taken from different sized fish to determine their age and growth rates. Water temperatures and clarity are also recorded

The data collected are compared with previous samples and analyzed using computer models.

The results will help scientists estimate the walleye population, the strength of each year-class and the survival rates of various year-classes.

DNR Executive Director Susan Klapel said the surveys are part of the Band's commitment to protecting natural resources.

"Fisheries has been an exciting addition to the Band's natural resources department," said Susan. "Everything we are looking at is how we can preserve our resources for generations to come. We are working toward some more research, another great hatch in the spring and components that will give Band members the opportunities to work with us. Hopefully seeing some of the work we are doing will encourage some of our members to pursue biology in school and come work with us."

Bassmasters Tourney Spreads Good News about Mille Lacs

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The leadership of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures knew the renowned Bassmasters fishing tournament would give a shot in the arm to the local economy, but few could have foreseen the extent of the positive coverage the event brought to Mille Lacs.

Make no mistake: The Mille Lacs Band made the event possible; no other venue on the lake had the space or the staff to host such a major event. Grand Casino made a substantial financial commitment to host the tournament.

Other local businesses also clearly benefitted from the event. During the weigh-ins, professional anglers gave shoutouts to local businesses from McQuoid's to Twin Pines to Lyback's — in addition to thanking their sponsors.

But the economic impact of the tournament was not limited to one weekend. Sarah Barten of Grand Casino, who worked hard to help bring the tourney to Mille Lacs, thinks the best is yet to come.

"This week was great for the local businesses, but the benefits will be ongoing as more people learn about the lake," said Sarah. "When the TV version of this tournament airs next month, a lot of people are going to get excited about booking a trip to Mille Lacs."

The anglers who participated agreed wholeheartedly. Social media blew up during the tournament, as the pros tweeted and blogged about the spectacular bass fishing.

At "Bassmasters University" presentations and the daily weigh-ins, they raved about the lake:

Skeet Reese: "I've been all around the world chasing fish, and I've never seen a smallmouth fishery that kicks out this many five-pound smallmouth. Your secret fishing hole is now a community fishing hole. These guys will be coming back. I'll be coming back."

Casey Ashley: "This is the best smallmouth fishery I've ever seen in my life."

Brett Hite: "This place is phenomenal. We go to a lot of largemouth factories and don't catch this many fish."

Jacob Powroznik: "I'd like to come back time and time and time again."

Kevin VanDam: "I guarantee you we'll be back. There's not many places on the planet like this."

Tommy Biffle: "This has got to be the number one small-mouth lake in the country."

James Elam: "I'm gonna leave this tournament knowing I'll never experience smallmouth fishing like this ever again."

Boyd Duckett: "You can lose here and still have a good time."

Takahiro Omori: "This is one of the best places I ever fished in my life."

Brandon Ploinick: "You guys truly have the best smallmouth bass fishery in the world right now."

Gary Klein: "It is truly the smallmouth capital of the world." Bill Lowen: "It's better than we're all saying. You can go out there and catch the smallmouth of a lifetime."

Kelly Jordan: "I hope we come back. This is truly the best smallmouth fishery I've ever seen."

You get the idea. Guys who do this for a living had never experienced anything like it.

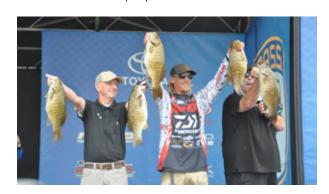
The highlight for the spectators might've been when Minnesota angler Seth Feider brought his final bag to the scale on Sunday afternoon. The five fish weighed in at 26 pounds, 2 ounces, to bring his three-day total to 76 pounds, five ounces — more than six pounds better than the nearest competitor. Seth's average of over 5 pounds per fish on three straight days is unheard of even in the most renowned largemouth waters.

But it wasn't just the fishing that had anglers raving; they also were clearly impressed by the large crowds that turned out for the event, indicating that the Bassmasters will likely return to the lake for another tournament.

Thousands filed through the tents to talk with anglers, learn about the latest gear, or shop for a wide array of products. There was something for everyone, including kids and "fishing widows." Eddy's and Grand Casino served food, and vendors sold arts and crafts, clothing, automotive products, household cleaners — you name it.

Saturday and Sunday the Grand Casino parking lots were full, and during the final weigh-in, cars also lined the roads and filled the government center parking lot.

At a lake where positive press about fishing is hard to come by, the Band's pursuit of the Bassmasters helped make possible the best news story in years.



The highlight of the tournament was the victory of Minnesota native Seth Feider, who caught over 75 pounds of smallmouth bass during the three-day tournament — an average of five fish per day weighing more than five pounds each.



Casino employees Nicole Mitchell, Robbie Sawyer, Sarah Barten and Tracy Sam (pictured with grandson Noah Sablan) were in good spirits on Saturday.



A fish pond and other activities kept kids busy, and the expo had something for everyone — not just fishing accessories, but also clothing, household products, arts, crafts and food.





Casino Employees Help Feed the Hungry

Roughly 2,000 volunteers — including many from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Grand Casino — filled Target Field on Friday, Sept. 16 for a Feed My Starving Children event hosted by the Minnesota Twins. Pack at the Park volunteers hand-packed an estimated 500,000 meals for hungry children around the world, which is enough food to feed approximately 1,500 children for a year.

MIGA 25th ANNIVERSARY

Photos by Chad Germann

Minnesota Native American tribes celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association on September 15. The event was hosted by the Mille Lacs Band at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront. Top: Michele Palomaki, Adam Valdez and Tracy Sam. Bottom: Jamie Edwards, Kelly Sam, Joe Nayquonabe Jr.







Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

	-		
Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2016	Expenditures through 8/31/2016	% of Budget Expended
Administration (1)	16,222,603	12,640,049	77.92%
Department of Labor	21,296,699	6,063,555	28.47%
Judicial	1,384,116	942,714	68.11%
Department of Justice	6,153,639	4,738,646	77.01%
Education	19,996,036	15,710,390	78.57%
Health and Human Services	25,715,411	17,304,000	67.29%
Circle of Health Insurance	9,976,600	6,318,083	63.33%
Natural Resources	8,019,894	6,424,151	80.10%
Community Development	87,776,727	26,035,162	29.66%
Gaming Authority	5,265,965	3,912,087	74.29%
Economic Supplimental Distribution	6,189,601	5,394,485	87.15%
Bonus Distribution	44,191,045	42,065,610	95.19%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,171,000	3,171,000	100.00%
Total	255,359,336	150,719,932	59.02%

- Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs, and district operations.
- (2) The amounts above do not include casino operations. However, they do include government operations
- (3) The Financial Statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997. As of October 1, 1997, the Band has separated accounting functions for the Corporate Ventures from the tribal government.









District I Community Receives Update on Education

District I Rep. Sandi Blake invited a number of guest speakers to the District I community meeting on Sept. 14 to provide updates on education and truancy.

After a meal of beef stew, Sandi introduced Onamia School District Indian Education Coordinator Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, who introduced herself in Ojibwe and also her staff members. She said the department has hosted powwows, meetand-greets and teacher trainings. "We're making a lot of steps toward improving Indian education in the district," she concluded. The Indian Ed program is funded through state grants, Title 7 and Johnson O'Malley funds provided by the Band.

Onamia principal and interim superintendent J.J. Vold spoke next about rising enrollment, school spirit, a new crop of dedicated teachers, and improved scores on the Minnesota Multiple Measure Rating. He said Onamia had one of the highest scores in the region. "We're working a lot of mindset," J.J. said, "making sure all staff believe in all kids, and all kids believe in themselves."

Bradley Harrington of the Local Indian Ed Parent Committee encouraged parents to get involved in the school and the LIEPC, which meets the first Tuesday of every month at noon at the Rolf Olsen Center in Onamia. He said they are considering changes of time and location of the meetings. He praised the Indian Ed program, including the Ojibwe Knowledge Bowl program, and talked about the importance of parental involvement to make sure students and staff are learning about Native history, treaties and government. "If you'd like to take part, or know any parents who would, please come and join us," he said.

Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag acting principal Lehtitia Weiss was up next. She didn't want to say how long she'd been teaching at the school, but she did say, "When I look out in the crowd I see a lot of my former students, and those students now have children I am now teaching." She encouraged parents and community members to get involved at the school, and she praised Education Commissioner Ed Minnema for the work he's done since his appointment. "With him as the leader, I feel like many good things will come to Nay Ah Shing."

Nay Ah Shing Upper School Principal Noah Johnson thanked Sandi for her support of the schools before giving a detailed update on changes at Nay Ah Shing. He said the theme of the year is STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Students will be working on robotics, pottery and a new life skills curriculum in a remodeled Home Economics room. They will also be using Chrome Books in grades 4 and 7, taking kids on a variety of field trips, and offering drum and dance classes and a Quiz Bowl team. Joe Nayquonabe Sr. will also be working in the school doing staff mentoring and a boys' talking circle. "Staff are extremely excited to have him in the school and work on their own language and culture," Noah said. "We want you to come to the schools, we really do. Come and spend time with your child."

Officer Charles Scott provided an update on what the Band is doing to solve the truancy problem, including a rewrite of the truancy statute to streamline the process and make it more efficient. He said it's important for parents to call the school when kids are sick, so they don't have an officer showing up at their doors. "I'm charming, and I have a great personality, but people still don't like to see me at 8 o'clock in the morning," he joked. "The goal is to get children back to school, and it's working." Pictured left, top to bottom: Sandi Blake, Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe, J.J. Vold, Lehtitia Weiss.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

Bradley E. Harrington Nazhike Awaasanang

VTIs — Verb Transitive Inanimate

VTI — Verb Transitive Inanimate is a verb with a transitive, an inanimate object and a characteristic set of inflections. (Ojibwe Peoples Dictionary)

This month's Ojibwe Language Lesson will focus on the VTI type verbs which describe the "ITs" (inanimate objects). Transitive describes the action taking place. In other words, a person is doing something to it whether it being use it, find it, eat it, like it, see it, play with it. The key to these verbs is the object; there must be an object and it must be inanimate. All the words of this type of verb are found in the Dictionary in its command form, but you can add who and when to conjugate the word to say what you want to say.

Verb	Command	I am – Ni, Nind, Nim You are – Gi, Gid		S/he is – O, Od	
Use it	Aabajitoon	Nindaabajitoon	Gidaabajitoon	Odaabajitoon	
Find it	Mikan	Nimikaan	Gimikaan	Omikaan	
Eat it	Miijin	Nimiijin	Gimiijin	Omiijin	
Like it	Minwendan	Niminwendaan	Giminwendaan	Ominwendaan	
See it	Waabandan	Niwaabandaan	Giwaabandaan	Owaabandaan	
Play with it	Odaminwaadan	Indoodaminwaandaan	Gidoodaminwaandaan	Odoodaminwaandaan	

Adding a tense marker allows you to express when a VTI takes place Tense markers: ga(will), gii(did), wii(want to), daa(should)

 To add the object use i'iw for things out of reach and o'ow for things within reach.

Nindaa-aabajitoon i'iw moozhwaagan. Giwii-odaminwaadaan ina o'ow X-Makak?

Command form — telling someone to do something. ina initiates a Yes/No question.

Moozhwaagan — scissors

X-Makak — X-Box

Band Youth Excel in the Mille Lacs Raider Cross Country Team

Bradley Harrington Guest Writer

The sun is shining bright but the cool fall air gives a slight nip to your face. The wind makes its presence known while remaining subtle enough to be unnoticeable. Looking over the rolling hills of Spring Brook Golf Course in Mora on Tuesday, September 13, the girls of the Mille Lacs Raiders Cross Country Team are focused but playful due to their special bond as long distance runners.

"This year's team could be the best yet," proudly stated Coach Jeff Walz. Onamia 7th graders Molly Saboo and Aiyanna Mitchell, along with Isle 7th grader Kami Smith, have finished in the awards every race, while the Mille Lacs team has finished 1st or 2nd three times in the first four meets of the year. They have confidently raced against many of the larger schools in Central Minnesota.

In order to compete as a team, you have to have five or more runners. "To be successful, it is important to have strong runners in the 4 and 5 spot," Coach Walz says. "Braelyn Har-

rington, Mikayla Anderson, Neveah Merrill, and Bella Nayquonabe have filled these positions nicely."

These young athletes' success has been because of their work ethic, having to run 4 to 5 miles every day in practice — and they push each other hard. "The key to having a talented varsity team down the road will ride on their shoulders," boasts Walz. "The future looks bright."

The girls ran with everything they had on this course which was new to them and a quarter mile longer than what they were used to. At the end of the day the Jr. High Team of the Mille Lacs Raiders finished 4th.



Left to right: Molly Saboo, Aiyanna Mitchell, Neveah Merrill, Braelyn Harrington, Bella Nayquonabe, Mikayla Anderson, Kami Smith.

Onamia School District Teachers Learn About Indian Issues

Staff members in the Onamia School District spent one of their fall workshop days learning about Indian law, history and culture. Nearly half of the district's students are Native American, and the administration has recognized the need to ensure that teachers and other staff have a solid understanding of the student body.

Commissioner of Education Ed Minnema gave a thorough presentation on federal Indian policy on the morning of Aug. 31. He provided background information on tribes in Minnesota, who are the state's sixth-largest employer, and he defined terms like "tribe," "Indian" and "Indian Country."

He also defined and explained the Constitutional basis for

sovereignty and the federal trust responsibility toward tribes. He spoke about important Supreme Court cases like the "Marshall trilogy," about gaming compacts between states and tribes, Public Law 280, the Indian Civil Rights Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Ed devoted a large part of his talk to boarding schools and their negative impact on tribes and tribal members. He also discussed the time periods of Indian history, from the pre-colonial period through relocation, allotments and assimilation, to Indian reorganization, termination and finally tribal self-determination.

After lunch, staff members made a visit to the Mille Lacs

Indian Museum to learn even more about Anishinaabe culture and history.

Faculty members commented afterwards that they found the day informative and helpful. Much of the information was new to many of the teachers.

The week before Ed's presentation to the entire faculty, Indian Ed Coordinator Chris Clitso-Nayquonabe gave a presentation to new teachers. She spoke about her own Navaho culture as well as the Anishinaabe culture of her husband's family. She attempted to dispel some myths and provide new teachers with an understanding of issues that may affect their relationships with students.

Hope for Youth in the Songs of the Elders

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Anishinaabe culture places a high value on Elders, but sometimes forgotten are those adults who will be Elders soon, and whose responsibility it will be to pass knowledge on to the next generations.

Tom Benjamin of East Lake takes that responsibility seriously, and he's preparing for the day when he will be one of the essential connections to the wisdom and teachings of the past.

Tom felt singled out at a young age, and that experience has helped him learn the old ways, especially the music of the drums. "I started learning about my culture and language when I was 5 years old, right here at the old ceremonial building," Tom recalled. "When I heard the drum, it fascinated me. Instead of going outside with the other kids, I wanted to stay inside."

Tom had a gift for singing. People used to ask his mom to bring Tom over, just so they could hear him sing. "There weren't many my age who were singing the traditional songs," he said.

Among those who noticed Tom's passion for the drums and talent for singing were former Chief Executive Art Gahbow, who adopted Tom in a traditional ceremony, and spiritual leader Albert Churchill. Tom spent many hours listening in on conversations they had with other Elders.

Albert's son Buzz, another father figure to Tom, was the one who invited him to sing at the drum for the first time. "One night, Buzz came and got me off the bench and brought me to the drum, handed me a stick," Tom said. But he was afraid to sing.

"Sing it!" Buzz said. "You sang it to me at home."

"That's at home!" Tom replied. "There's a bunch of people here!"

"Just hit that drum and feel it here," Buzz told him, putting a hand to his chest. "Feel it in your heart."

Tom did, and he's been singing at Big Drum ceremonies ever since. "Once you sing like that, it's amazing what happens to you — your whole body, mind and soul," Tom said. "I felt it, I heard it, and I sang it. I was so numb, but I sang it with all my heart. Once they got me out of my turtle shell, I just kept going and never stopped."

At every opportunity, Tom would go see the Elders, just to listen to them talk, he said. "They had a lot of stories to tell, about the hardships back in the day when we lived in wigwams, or tar paper shacks."

Albert taught Tom about the value of a nickel, and about the respect that people should have for each other, and for themselves. Central to many of the teachings was the importance of asemaa, of asking for help and expressing gratitude. "Everything we do is oriented around tobacco, always," said Tom. "Singing the songs, the Drum. That was the main thing that I was always strictly told to do."

When he was 25, Tom was asked to be a Drumkeeper, joining Tim Jackson, who was taking care of a drum once cared for by Archie Moose, Sam Yankee and Sam's wife Ada. When Ada died at age 94, Tom was asked to take her place.

"It's one of the greatest honors that can be offered to you, to take care of a drum as a Drumkeeper," Tom said. "To take that responsibility was overwhelming, something that I never dreamed of, but they had confidence and respect to see me sit there. It's almost beyond words, how you feel to be asked."

Tom admits that he didn't always stay on a good path, even with a strong foundation in his culture. The death of his parents affected him deeply, and he used alcohol to hide from his grief.

"People on the reservation weren't mad; they were concerned," he said. "They knew I was on the wrong path. That was an eye opener for me. I let people down that were concerned, and I burned a couple bridges."

Eventually he remembered the teachings of the old ones, and it helped him recover. "They talked about their days of drinking alcohol, the problems they had with it. A lot of the Elders that I talked to said they more or less wised up. They realized the white people were conquering the Indian people because of the alcohol, and they didn't want to be defeated. That was their story to me. They knew what the white people were doing to them, and how foolish they looked. They didn't want to be like that anymore, so that was why they could push the alcohol away."

Now that he's back on the good path, Tom would like to help the younger men who are going through struggles. He wants to pass down the knowledge his Elders passed on to him: teachings about respect, and asemaa, and dewe'igan — the Drum.

It bothers Tom that some Anishinaabe people are afraid to come to ceremonial dances. "They think they might do something wrong, or feel like they don't belong there, but we welcome all those to come in," he said. "Never push anybody away who's willing to listen to you and learn from you. That's



"That's what the drums are there for, to help all Anishinaabe with whatever they need in their lives."

one of the things I was always taught."

He also knows how important it is not to judge, another lesson he learned from Albert and the other Elders. "Nobody's above anybody else," he said. "We're all the same. Have pity and compassion for those who are judgmental. We're not here on this earth for that. We're here to be all one people. No one's better than any other. We all offer tobacco the same. Nobody's clan is bigger or better. Praise what you've got and be in harmony with everybody else.

"As long as we abide by our old teachings, we'll all be okay. If we can teach that to those younger ones that are struggling, life would be a little bit easier for all of us. We are here for them, and we have those teachings. If you want to learn, just offer tobacco and ask. That's what the drums are there for, to help all Anishinaabe with whatever they need in their lives."

Tom and Tim's ceremonial dance will be held November 11 and 12 at the East Lake Ceremonial Building. All Anishinaabe are encouraged to attend as many Big Drum ceremonies as they can. For a complete schedule of this fall's ceremonies, see page 15.





Left: Tom Benjamin (right) was always fascinated with drums and singing. Right: Tom attended Wild Rice Days in McGregor Sept. 4 with his daughter and grandkids.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy October Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diana Marie Anderson Mary Ann Bedausky Sheldon Ray Boyd Vivian Ann Bruce Marvin Ray Bruneau Donna Marie Dorr Cartwright Archie Dahl Cash Albert Abner Churchill Jr. Steven Lawrence Churchill Ervin Wayne Crown Harold William Davis Darlene Marie Day-Beaulieu James F Dowell Jr. Joycelyn Marie Drumbeater Ronda Leigh Dunfee Jack Leo Dunkley

Gary Richard Garbow Helena Graikowski Lucy May Hansen Marene Hedstrom Delores Mae Hegland William Robert Hemming Steven Blane Hensley Sherry Lynn Herrick Charles Allen Houle Jr. Robert Lee Kegg Doreen Lorraine Knutson Valerie Marie LaFave Terrance Steven Leyk Joan Littlewolf Marcella Jean Maurice Jacqueline Applegate McRae Betty Mae Mondeng Brenda Joyce Moose Beverly Marie Nayquonabe

Linda Jean Nickaboine Teresa Lynn Packard Bernice Pewaush Dorothy Sam Ruth Anne Sam Virginia Louise Sam James Robert Schroeder Merle Skinaway Beverly Jean Smith Charlene Marie Smith Nancy Jean Spittell Montgomery Jay Staples Jay Star Russell Ernest Towle Jill Marie Valentino Darlene Almeda Warren Earl Ellsworth Whitney Nancy Marie Zeleznik

Happy October Birthdays:

Happy 1st birthday to Aliyana Joy on 10/6! Love, Mom, Dad, Rhea, CJ, Jordan, and Michaela. • Happy 71st Birthday Grandma Joyce on 10/13! We Love You So Much! Lots of Love, Kelly, Terrence & EllaMarie. • Happy birthday to Eric on 10/25! Love Dad, Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Wes, Brynley, Waase, Bianca, Henry, Papa Brad, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Auntie Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Uncle Jay, Taylor and Adam. • Happy birthday to **Melodie** on 10/31, our Halloween baby! Love the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday **Melodie Brownie** on 10/31! From, her mom, Rueben, Grandma, Papa, Benjamin Family, Pendegayosh Family and from her Weh-eh.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR**

LESS to Myles Gorham at

myles.gorham@ redcircleagency.com

or call 612-465-0853.

The deadline for the November issue is October 15.

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls., Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Open Gym

Mondays — Thursdays, 5:30 — 9 p.m. District I Community Center

Elders Beading Group

Mondays, 5-8 p.m. District I Assisted Living Unit

UPCOMING EVENTS

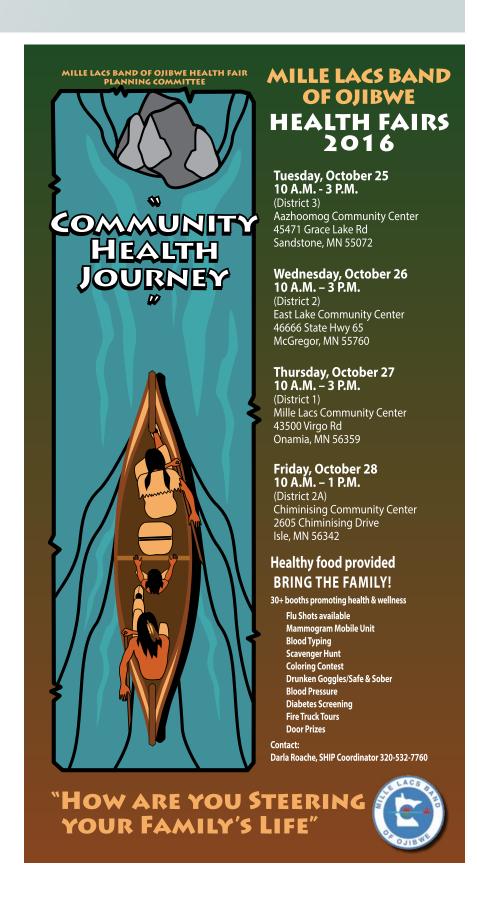
Community Health Fairs

Mark your calendar! Community Health Fairs will be held on the following days: District III, Oct. 25; District II, Oct. 26; District I, Oct. 27; District IIa, Oct. 28. The theme this year is "Community Health Journey." See page 11 for more.

Commissioners and Staff on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Susan Klapel, DNR Executive Director	320-362-1756
Ed Minnema, Commissioner of Education	320-630-0674
Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health & Human Services	320-630-2607
Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development	320-630-2496
Michele Palomaki, Assistant Commissioner of Administration	320-630-7415
Catherine Colsrud, Commissioner of Administration	320-292-0258



BINAAKWE-GIIZIS: FALLING LEAVES MOON

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.								
Visit millelacsband.com	Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events							
Also see page 14 for recurring events.								
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Aniibiish: a leaf, tea	Urban Area Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	Wiigobiibag: a basswood leaf Wiigwaasibag: a birch leaf	Urban Area Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	Circle of Health 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office	Ceremonial Dances DI Community Center Urban Area Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	Ceremonial Dances DI Community Center		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
Ininaatigobag: a maple leaf	Indigenous Peoples Day	DII Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	DII Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	Circle of Health 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. DII Community Center	Ceremonial Dances DII Community Center DII Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	Ceremonial Dances DII Community Center		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
Waatebagaa: There are bright leaves.	Ashkibagaa: There are green leaves.	Miskobagaa: There are red leaves.	DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center	11th Annual Operation Community Connect Milaca Public School Gym 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.	Ceremonial Dances DII Community Center Circle of Health 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. DIII Community Center	Ceremonial Dances DII Community Center		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
Ozaawibagaa: There are yellow/ brown leaves.	Aniibiishikaa: There are many leaves.	Community Health Fairs DIII Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. DI Community Center Sobriety Feast DI Community Center	Community Health Fairs DII DIII Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building DIIa Community Meeting	Community Health Fairs DII Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church DII Community Meeting	Community Health Fairs DIIa Ceremonial Dances DI Community Center DIII Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m. MCT Building	Ceremonial Dances DI Community Center Beading 101 12 — 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum		
30								
DIII Firearms Safety Class 6 p.m.	Zaagibagaa: It buds;	MLB COMMILLE LACS BAND OF OJIEWE		1 – 4 p.m.				
MCT Building Beading 101 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mille Lacs	the leaves come out.	GET	OUT THE	GRAN	GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS BALLROOM			
Indian Museum		NATIVE	VOTE RALLY	IVIILLE	LAUS DAL	LNOUN		

CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

Merlin & Mick: Mille Lacs, October 7 & 8, 2016
Ralph & Andy: Mille Lacs, October 14 & 15
Niib: East Lake, October 14 & 15
Vince & Dale: East Lake, October 21 & 22
Lynda & Joyce: Mille Lacs, October 28 & 29

Lynda & Joyce: Mille Lacs, October 28 & 29 Skip: Lake Lena, November 4 & 5 Elmer & AJ: Mille Lacs, November 4 & 5
Tim & Tom: East Lake, November 11 & 12
Joe & George: Mille Lacs, November 18 & 19
Lee & Larry: Lake Lena, November 24 & 25
Bob & Perry: Mille Lacs, December 2 & 3

Child Support Check Distribution for the Month of November

Due to a holiday on November 11th the Child Support office will be distributing Per Capita Child Support checks on November 9th, 2016 from 12-5 p.m. and November 10th, 2016 from 8 a.m. -5 p.m. Checks not picked up by 1:30 pm on the 10th will be mailed out unless a client has called to have it held or are on the Do Not Mail List.

Due to a noon closing, wage checks will be distributed on November 23rd, 2016 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Checks not picked up by noon will be mailed out.

If you have any questions or concerns with your case, please contact your Case Manager below:

- Vacant Contact Rachel L. Sablan
 District I Case Manager 320-532-7461
- Tammy Smith District II, IIa, III and Urban Case Manager: 320-532-7752

The Child Support office will be closed at noon on November 4th and November 23rd, 2016.

The Child Support office will be closed all day on November 11th, November 24th and November 25th.

If you have any questions or concerns contact our office directly at 320-532-7755.

Minor Trust Training Scheduled for October 18

High school age Band members should sign up now to participate.

On October 18, a Financial Education training session and workshop will be presented to the invited youth of Mille Lacs Band. The material covered is authored by the National Endowment for Financial Education with the stated goal: "... to help young people develop smart spending and saving habits that lead to self-sufficiency".

The participating youth generally will be of high school age, looking to plan for the next step in education or workplace on their own. The informal format will be discussion based, looking to assist with individual planning.

Topics include, "Smart Spending and Saving Habits," "Identifying Values, Beliefs, and Traditions," "Creating a Spending Plan," and similar strategies designed to take some of the mystery out of the financial landscape.

This event is sponsored by the Band Assembly and coordinated by the Commissioner of Finance, Adam Valdez, with

coordination of Jana Sam, Minor Trust/Per Capita office.

These non-commercial educational sessions are offered without cost to participants and are facilitated by experienced financial professionals.

The course will be led by William White, his wife Loran and Leisa Nash. William is a senior vice president and financial advisor with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Rapid City, S.D. Loran is a retired teacher and former Morgan Stanley employee who helped her husband develop the course eight years ago and also helps deliver it. Leisa is also a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley.

"Our favorite part of the session is the chance to interact with the participants one-on-one," said William. "Sharing ideas and keeping the discussions personalized adds to self-confidence and understanding in dealing with the ever-changing financial landscape."

He said the course will cover some basic concepts and strategies easily incorporated into everyday existence. "One or two tools used on the road to becoming financially responsible and self-sufficient can make managing finances less stressful," he said.

For further information please contact:

Jana Sam — Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Office: 320-532-7466

Woodlands Honored by SBA

The Small Business Administration honored Woodlands National Bank and 10 other lenders throughout Minnesota for commitment to helping small businesses succeed.

"SBA's lenders work hard every day to help small businesses start, grow and succeed," said Nancy Libersky, SBA's Minnesota district director, in a news release. "We guarantee the loans, but it is the banks, credit unions and our incredibly strong community-based lenders, who put money in the hands of business owners. These dollars are creating new businesses and new jobs in the state every day."

Woodlands National Bank, which is owned by the Mille Lacs Band, was chosen Minnesota's 2016 SBA Community Lender based on the growth of its small business loan portfolio, the positive impact of its commitment to small business lending in the communities it serves, and its pledge to giving back to the community. Woodlands National Bank serves small businesses in eastern Minnesota from just south of Duluth to the greater metro area and into Minneapolis.

Anishinaabe Strong

Adrienne Benjamin Guest Writer



Deilyah Dexter

I want to write about an important part of the Anishinaabe Strong Conference that was overlooked in last month's Inaajimowin. The youth from the Ge-niigaanizijig program who so bravely stood up were given no mention. They delivered a powerful message about their own viewpoints and feelings

towards the drug epidemic in our communities, and they should be praised and celebrated.

I, as well as others in attendance, was moved to tears by the honesty and emotion of Deilyah Dexter. What she said was what needs to be said and talked about: the harsh reality and terrible effects of this issue in the community and not the sugar-coated version. She called out the community as a whole, asking why there weren't more people in attendance. She talked about babies being born, some in her own family, addicted and shaking uncontrollably. She was angered that our young people are having to bear witness to these consequences that are not of their own doing. She asked if it was ever thought about how these are the examples that are being set forth for our young people, not only by those with addictions, but the way we as a community respond to them.

She spoke with such poise and displayed leadership beyond her years. When she had trouble continuing her speech because she was becoming overrun with emotion, her fellow youth joined her on stage and comforted her. Was that ever a sight to see. It made me feel so good about our future here in Mille Lacs, to watch such a display of love and real leadership from those youth. Our youth are too often overlooked and their opinions are not asked about big issues, and they feel unimportant and undervalued.

I hope that the youth who got up and spoke truly understand how amazing and brave that was, even if you weren't one of the ones that spoke. Please know that you were still noticed and just as important in your support of your fellow youth's message. Who knows, you all might have changed someone's life that day. I know for certain that you all constantly make mine brighter and full of hope.

Miigwech to you. Miigwech to Bradley Harrington Jr. for asking the youth to be a part of the conference. Mii'iw.

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millelacsband.com





Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.